

1 standard deviation is 12 points ( $\sigma = 12$ ). Therefore,  $X$  is half of 12 points from the mean, or

$$(0.5)(12) = 6 \text{ points}$$

**STEP 3** Find the  $X$  value.

Starting with the value of the mean, use the direction (step 1) and the distance (step 2) to determine the  $X$  value. For this demonstration, we want to find the score that is 6 points below  $\mu = 60$ . Therefore,

$$X = 60 - 6 = 54$$

Formula 5.2 is used to convert a  $z$ -score to an  $X$  value. For this demonstration, we obtain the following, using the formula:

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \mu + z\sigma \\ &= 60 + (-0.50)(12) \\ &= 60 + (-6) = 60 - 6 \\ &= 54 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that the sign of the  $z$ -score determines whether the deviation score is added to or subtracted from the mean.

## PROBLEMS

- Describe exactly what information is provided by a  $z$ -score.
- A distribution has a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 4$ . Find the  $z$ -score for each of the following locations in the distribution.
  - Above the mean by 4 points
  - Above the mean by 12 points
  - Below the mean by 2 points
  - Below the mean by 8 points
- A distribution has a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 10$ . For each of the following  $z$ -scores, determine whether the location is above or below the mean and determine how many points away from the mean. For example,  $z = +1.00$  corresponds to a location that is above the mean by 10 points.
  - $z = +2.00$
  - $z = +0.50$
  - $z = -2.00$
  - $z = -1.50$
- For a population with  $\mu = 80$  and  $\sigma = 20$ ,
  - Find the  $z$ -score for each of the following  $X$  values. (Note: You should be able to find these values using the definition of a  $z$ -score. You should not need to use a formula or do any serious calculations.)
 

$X = 75$	$X = 90$	$X = 110$
$X = 95$	$X = 60$	$X = 40$
  - Find the score ( $X$  value) that corresponds to each of the following  $z$ -scores. (Note: You should be able to find these values using the definition of a  $z$ -score. You should not need to use a formula or do any serious calculations.)
 

$z = 2.50$	$z = -0.50$	$z = -1.50$
$z = 0.25$	$z = -0.75$	$z = 1.00$
- For a population with  $\mu = 45$  and  $\sigma = 7$ , find the  $z$ -score for each of the following  $X$  values. (Note: You probably will need to use the formula and a calculator to find these values.)
 

$X = 47$	$X = 35$	$X = 40$
$X = 60$	$X = 55$	$X = 42$

6. A population has a mean of  $\mu = 50$  and a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 10$ .
- a. For this population, find the  $z$ -score corresponding to each of the following scores.

$$X = 55 \quad X = 40 \quad X = 35$$

$$X = 48 \quad X = 70 \quad X = 65$$

- b. For the same population, find the score ( $X$  value) corresponding to each of the following  $z$ -scores.

$$z = -2.00 \quad z = 1.50 \quad z = -0.50$$

$$z = 0.60 \quad z = 1.00 \quad z = 0$$

7. A population has a mean of  $\mu = 70$  and a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 8$ .
- a. For this population, find the  $z$ -score corresponding to each of the following scores.

$$X = 74 \quad X = 68 \quad X = 86$$

$$X = 62 \quad X = 82 \quad X = 54$$

- b. For the same population, find the score ( $X$  value) corresponding to each of the following  $z$ -scores.

$$z = 0.75 \quad z = 1.50 \quad z = 2.50$$

$$z = -1.00 \quad z = -0.25 \quad z = -3.00$$

8. A sample of  $n = 25$  scores has a mean of  $M = 60$  and a standard deviation of  $s = 12$ . Find the  $z$ -score corresponding to each of the following scores from this sample.

$$X = 66 \quad X = 48 \quad X = 84$$

$$X = 55 \quad X = 70 \quad X = 75$$

9. A sample has a mean of  $M = 75$  and a standard deviation of  $s = 10$ . Find the  $X$  value corresponding to each of the following  $z$ -scores for this sample.

$$z = 1.50 \quad z = -2.30 \quad z = -0.80$$

$$z = 0.40 \quad z = -1.20 \quad z = 2.10$$

10. Find the  $z$ -score corresponding to a score of  $X = 50$  for each of the following distributions.
- $\mu = 60$  and  $\sigma = 5$
  - $\mu = 40$  and  $\sigma = 5$
  - $\mu = 60$  and  $\sigma = 20$
  - $\mu = 40$  and  $\sigma = 20$
11. Find the  $X$  value corresponding to  $z = +1.50$  for each of the following distributions.
- $\mu = 100$  and  $\sigma = 10$
  - $\mu = 100$  and  $\sigma = 20$
  - $\mu = 80$  and  $\sigma = 4$
  - $\mu = 80$  and  $\sigma = 2$

12. A score that is 10 points below the mean corresponds to a  $z$ -score of  $z = -2.00$ . What is the population standard deviation?
13. A score that is 8 points above the mean corresponds to a  $z$ -score of  $z = 0.50$ . What is the population standard deviation?
14. For a population with a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 4$ , a score of  $X = 44$  corresponds to  $z = -0.50$ . What is the population mean?
15. For a sample with a standard deviation of  $s = 10$ , a score of  $X = 65$  corresponds to  $z = 1.50$ . What is the sample mean?
16. For a sample with a mean of  $M = 85$ , a score of  $X = 90$  corresponds to a  $z$ -score of  $z = 1.00$ . What is the sample standard deviation?
17. For a population with a mean of  $\mu = 70$ , a score of 62 corresponds to a  $z$ -score of  $z = -2.00$ . What is the population standard deviation?
18. In a population of exam scores, a score of  $X = 88$  corresponds to  $z = +2.00$  and a score of  $X = 79$  corresponds to  $z = -1.00$ . Find the mean and standard deviation for the population. (*Hint:* Sketch the distribution and locate the two scores on your sketch.)
19. In a distribution of scores,  $X = 62$  corresponds to  $z = +0.50$ , and  $X = 52$  corresponds to  $z = -2.00$ . Find the mean and standard deviation for the distribution.
20. For each of the following populations, would a score of  $X = 48$  be considered a central score (near the middle of the distribution) or an extreme score (far out in the tail of the distribution)?
- $\mu = 40$  and  $\sigma = 10$
  - $\mu = 40$  and  $\sigma = 2$
  - $\mu = 50$  and  $\sigma = 4$
  - $\mu = 60$  and  $\sigma = 4$
21. Suppose that you have a score of  $X = 55$  on an exam with  $\mu = 50$ . Which standard deviation would give you the better grade:  $\sigma = 5$  or  $\sigma = 10$ ?
22. Answer the question in Problem 21, but this time assume that the mean for the exam is  $\mu = 60$ .
23. On Tuesday afternoon, Bill earned a score of  $X = 73$  on an English test with  $\mu = 65$  and  $\sigma = 8$ . The same day, John earned a score of  $X = 63$  on a math test with  $\mu = 57$  and  $\sigma = 3$ . Who should expect the better grade, Bill or John? Explain your answer.
24. Suppose that you got a score of  $X = 78$  on an English test for which the mean was  $\mu = 70$  and the standard deviation was  $\sigma = 10$ . Also, suppose that you got a score of  $X = 64$  on a Spanish test with  $\mu = 50$  and  $\sigma = 7$ . For which test would you expect the better grade? Explain your answer.

25. A distribution with a mean of  $\mu = 38$  and a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 4$  is being transformed into a standardized distribution with  $\mu = 50$  and  $\sigma = 10$ . Find the new, standardized score for each of the following values from the original population.
- a.  $X = 42$
  - b.  $X = 40$
  - c.  $X = 38$
  - d.  $X = 36$
26. A distribution with a mean of  $\mu = 86$  and a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 12$  is being transformed into a standardized distribution with  $\mu = 100$  and  $\sigma = 20$ . Find the new, standardized score for each of the following values from the original population.
- a.  $X = 80$
  - b.  $X = 89$
  - c.  $X = 95$
  - d.  $X = 98$
27. A population consists of the following  $N = 6$  scores: 0, 4, 6, 1, 3, and 4.
- a. Compute  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  for the population.
  - b. Find the  $z$ -score for each score in the population.
  - c. Transform the original population into a new population of  $N = 6$  scores with a mean of  $\mu = 50$  and a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 10$ .
28. A population consists of the following  $N = 5$  scores: 0, 6, 4, 3, and 12.
- a. Compute  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  for the population.
  - b. Find the  $z$ -score for each score in the population.
  - c. Transform the original population into a new population of  $N = 5$  scores with a mean of  $\mu = 60$  and a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 8$ .