



SPSS Tip 4.6

Funny numbers

SPSS sometimes reports numbers with the letter 'E' placed in the mix just to confuse you. For example, you might see a value such as 9.612 E-02. Many students find this notation confusing. This notation means 9.61×10^{-2} , which might be a more familiar notation, or could be even more confusing. Think of E-02 as meaning 'move the decimal place 2 places to the left', so 9.612 E-02 becomes 0.09612. If the notation reads 9.612 E-01, then that would be 0.9612, and 9.612 E-03 would be 0.009612. Conversely, E+02 (notice the minus sign has changed) means 'move the decimal place 2 places to the right', so, 9.612 E+02 becomes 961.2.

