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| **Chapter 2 Answer Key** |  |
| **Anecdotal evidence**  | Personal stories about specific incidents and experiences.  |
| **Case study**  | An in-depth investigation of an individual subject.  |
| **Confounding of variables**  | A condition that exists whenever two variables are linked together in a way that makes it difficult to sort out their independent effects.  |
| **Control group**  | Subjects in a study who do not receive the special treatment given to the experimental group.  |
| **Correlation**  | The extent to which two variables are related to each other.  |
| **Correlation coefficient**  | A numerical index of the degree of relationship between two variables.  |
| **Data collection techniques**  | Procedures for making empirical observations and measurements.  |
| **Dependent variable**  | In an experiment, the variable that is thought to be affected by the manipulation of the independent variable.  |
| **Descriptive statistics**  | Statistics that are used to organize and summarize data.  |
| **Double-blind procedure**  | A research strategy in which neither subjects nor experimenters know which subjects are in the experimental or control groups.  |
| **Experiment**  | A research method in which the investigator manipulates a variable under carefully controlled conditions and observes whether any changes occur in a second variable as a result.  |
| **Experimental group**  | The subjects in a study who receive some special treatment in regard to the independent variable.  |
| **Experimenter bias**  | A phenomenon that occurs when a researcher’s expectations or preferences about the outcome of a study influence the results obtained.  |
| **Extraneous variables**  | Any variables other than the independent variable that seem likely to influence the dependent variable in a specific study.  |
| **Hypothesis**  | A tentative statement about the relationship between two or more variables.  |
| **Independent variable**  | In an experiment, a condition or event that an experimenter varies in order to see its impact on another variable.  |
| **Inferential statistics**  | Statistics that are used to interpret data and draw conclusions.  |
| **Journal**  | A periodical that publishes technical and scholarly material, usually in a narrowly defined area of inquiry.  |
| **Mean**  | The arithmetic average of the scores in a distribution.  |
| **Median**  | The score that falls exactly in the center of a distribution of scores.  |
| **Mode**  | The score that occurs most frequently in a distribution.  |
| **Nearsightedness**  | A vision deficiency in which close objects are seen clearly but distant objects appear blurry.  |
| **Operational definition**  | A definition that describes the actions or operations that will be made to measure or control a variable.  |
| **Participants**  | See Subjects.  |
| **Placebo effects**  | The fact that subjects’ expectations can lead them to experience some change even though they receive an empty, fake, or ineffectual treatment.  |
| **Population**  | The larger collection of animals or people from which a sample is drawn and that researchers want to generalize about.  |
| **Random assignment**  | The constitution of groups in a study such that all subjects have an equal chance of being assigned to any group or condition.  |
| **Replication**  | The repetition of a study to see whether the earlier results are duplicated.  |
| **Research methods**  | Differing approaches to the manipulation and control of variables in empirical studies.  |
| **Response set**  | A tendency to respond to questions in a particular way that is unrelated to the content of the questions.  |
| **Sample**  | The collection of subjects selected for observation in an empirical study.  |
| **Sampling bias**  | A problem that occurs when a sample is not representative of the population from which it is drawn.  |
| **Social desirability bias**  | A tendency to give socially approved answers to questions about oneself.  |
| **Standard deviation**  | An index of the amount of variability in a set of data.  |
| **Statistical significance**  | The condition that exists when the probability that the observed findings are due to chance is very low.  |
| **Statistics**  | The use of mathematics to organize, summarize, and interpret numerical data. See also Descriptive statistics, Inferential statistics.  |
| **Subjects**  | The persons or animals whose behavior is systematically observed in a study.  |
| **Survey**  | A descriptive research method in which researchers use questionnaires or interviews to gather information about specific aspects of subjects’ behavior.  |
| **Theory**  | A system of interrelated ideas that is used to explain a set of observations.  |
| **Variability**  | The extent to which the scores in a data set tend to vary from each other and from the mean.  |
| **Variables**  | Any measurable conditions, events, characteristics, or behaviors that are controlled or observed in a study.  |

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