MORE CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

There are two parts to a confidence interval:

- the interval itself
- the confidence level

One is never given without the other, especially since the confidence level will affect the width of the interval.

How does the confidence level affect the width of the interval? Think of a number between 1 and 100. If I want to guess the number, I have a 1/100 chance of being correct. If I guess an interval, say between 50 and 75, then I have a 25% chance of being correct.

The wider the interval, the higher my confidence that the guess is correct.

Confidence Level	Interval Width
90%	← ₹ →
95%	←
99%	€ 7>

Example: Understanding News Reports

Often, confidence intervals calculated from some study or survey are reported in the news. The following was reported in the paper......

"A study of 275 senior high school students found that their average weight was 8.5 kg above their recommended weight. This result was considered accurate within 1.3 kg, 19 times out of 20."

Recall: $CI = point estimate \pm margin of error$ $CI = \bar{\chi} \pm Z \mathcal{O}$ \sqrt{n} point a stimate margin of error

What is the point estimate? 8.5kg
What is the margin of error? 1.3kg
What is the margin of error? 19 or 95%

What does the statement really mean?

confidence level

The study is 95% confident that from the population of all NS Senior high students, on average these students weigh 7.2 to 9.8 kg above their recommended weight.

(wing this method!)

Example:

AP biology students tested the bacteria levels in the daycare. They chose 10 random locations, took swabs, and swiped these in prepared petri dishes to let the bacteria cultures grow. After 48 hrs, these were examined under a microscope and the bacteria count was recorded. The results are given. This bacteria population is know to have a growth patterns that follow a normal curve.

