



What the Numbers Say: A Field Guide to Mastering Our Numerical World

Derrick Niederman, David Boyum

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A decade ago, computer scientist Douglas Hofstadter coined the term *innumeracy*, which aptly described the widespread ailment of poor quantitative thinking in American society. So, in *What the Numbers Say*, Derrick Niederman and David Boyum present clear and comprehensible methods to help us process and calculate our way through the world of “data smog” that we live in. Avoiding abstruse formulations and equations, Niederman and Boyum anchor their presentations in the real world by covering a particular quantitative idea in relation to a context—like probability in the stock market or interest-rate percentages. And while this information is useful toward helping us to be more financially adept, *What the Numbers Say* is not merely about money. We learn why there were such dramatic polling swings in the 2000 U.S. presidential election and why the system of scoring for women’s figure skating was so controversial in the 2002 Winter Olympics, showing us that good quantitative thinking skills are not only practical but fun.

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