

6

CREATING EFFECTIVE TABLES

SOLUTIONS

1. Write a title for table 6A: “Median age of the US population, 1970 to 2010.”
3. Provide footnotes to table 6B.
 - Spell out EPA (Environmental Protection Agency).
 - Spell out ppmv (parts per million volume).
 - Spell out CO₂ (carbon dioxide).
 - Cite the data sources.
5. Design a table for each of the following topics.
 - a. Design elements:
 - Title: “Average monthly commuting costs (\$) by mode of transportation, US, 2010”
 - Mode of transportation in the rows
 - A column for monthly commuting costs
 - Items in the rows organized in ascending or descending order of cost
 - Note citing data source
 - b. Design elements:
 - Title: “Demographic composition of study sample, Houston, 2012”
 - One row for each demographic characteristic, with the categories for each demographic variable indented in rows below the label for that variable
 - Columns for number and percentage of cases, with units and weighting labeled
 - Note citing data source
 - c. Design elements:
 - Title: “Number of people (thousands) receiving college degrees by gender, 2000 to 2010, place”
 - One row for each year between 2000 and 2010 (chronological order)
 - One column for each gender
 - Note citing data source
 - d. Design elements:
 - Title: “Pearson correlation coefficients between height, weight, percentage body fat, systolic blood pressure, and resting pulse, elderly adults, Norway, 2008”
 - One row and one column for each variable, with label indicating units or footnote callout for abbreviated units (see *Writing about Numbers*, 2nd Edition, table 6.7, for an example)
 - Correlations reported in the below-diagonal cells
 - Symbols in the table cells to identify $p < 0.05$, with a note to explain the meaning of the symbol
 - Other notes to define unit abbreviations and specify data source

e. Design elements:

- Title: “Comparison of estimated dates for various artifacts, selected sites in North Africa and Europe”
- Artifacts arranged in the rows, grouped first by site, with artifacts indented under pertinent location; within site, artifacts arranged in rows in ascending or descending order of age
- Column naming each dating technique
- Footnotes citing data sources and references about dating methods

f. Design elements:

- Title: “Contraceptive use (%) by age group of women aged 15 to 45, US, 2009”
- One row for each type of contraceptive, arranged in conceptual groups (e.g., hormonal contraception) and then in descending order of prevalence within those groups
- One column for each 10-year age group, with a column spanner specifying units as “percentage of age group using specified method”
- Notes citing data source and explaining that each woman could report more than one contraceptive type, so percentages within each age group can sum to more than 100%