Name _____

Mean Detectives Answer Key

1. Incorrect sum. The sum is 36. Correct mean: 9.
2. Wrong divisor. There are 3 values. Correct mean: 12.
3. The value 13 was omitted. The sum is 45, and there are 5 values. Correct mean: 9.
4. Division error. 64 ÷ 4 = 16. Correct mean: 16.
5. Wrong divisor. There are 5 values. Correct mean: 12.
6. Division error. 66 ÷ 4 = 16.5. Correct mean: 16.5.

Teacher's Guide

- Quick implementation: Review the mean procedure before students begin: add every value, count the values, and divide the sum by that count.
- Quick implementation: Ask students to check each line of the fictional solution in order so they can locate exactly where the mistake occurs.
- Differentiation: Let students recalculate the sum and divisor separately before checking the final division.
- Differentiation: Provide the reminder "Mean = Sum ÷ Number of Values" for students who need additional support.
- Engagement: Have students act as math detectives and try to identify the type of mistake before calculating the correct answer.
- Extension: Ask students to write one incorrect mean solution containing exactly one mistake for a partner to find and correct.
- Extension: Have students classify the six mistakes as addition, counting, omitted-value, or division mistakes.

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