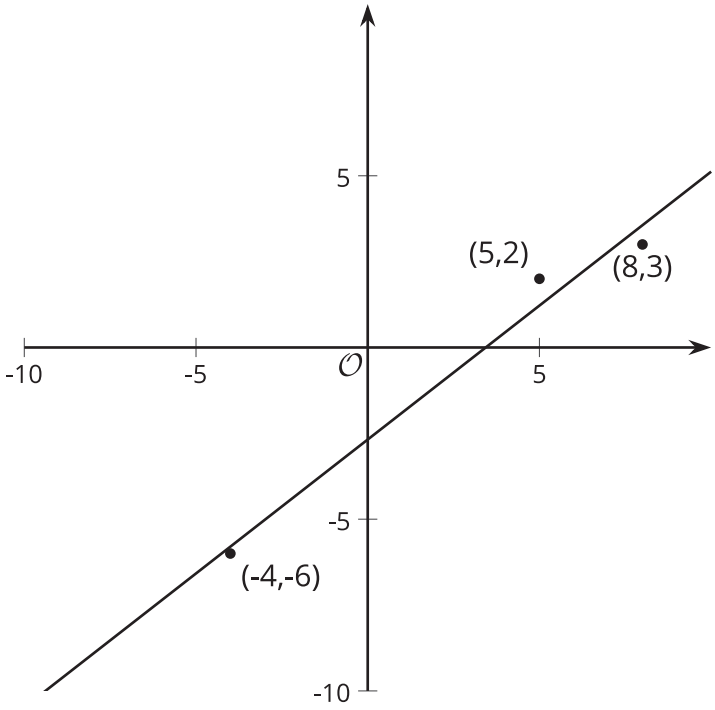
Unit 6, Lesson 6

The Slope of a Fitted Line

Let's look at how changing one variable changes another.

6.1 Estimating Slope

Estimate the slope of the line. Be prepared to explain your reasoning.

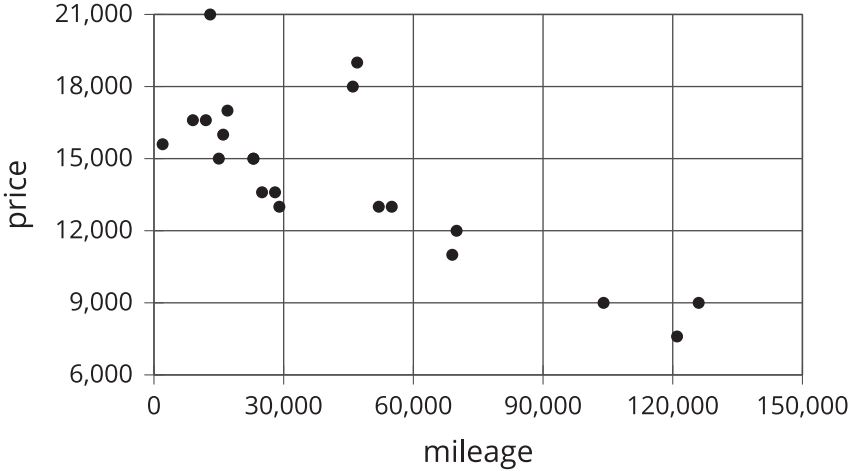


6.2 Describing Linear Associations

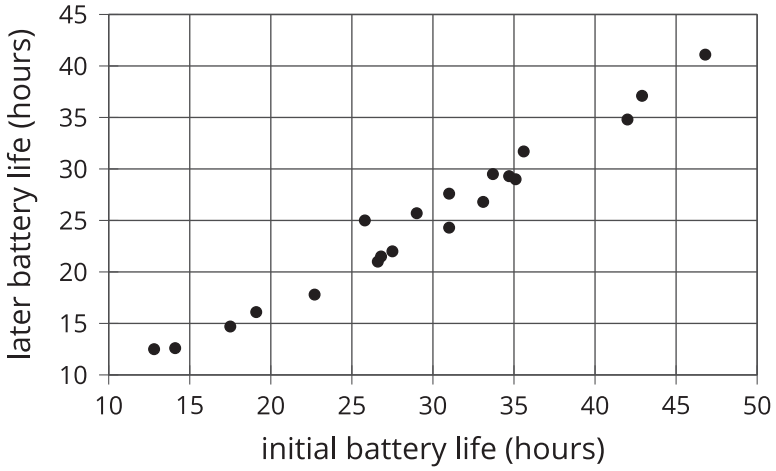
For each scatter plot, decide if there is an association between the 2 variables, and describe the situation using one of these sentences:

- For these data, as _____ increases, _____ tends to increase.
- For these data, as _____ increases, _____ tends to decrease.
- For these data, _____ and _____ do not appear to be related.

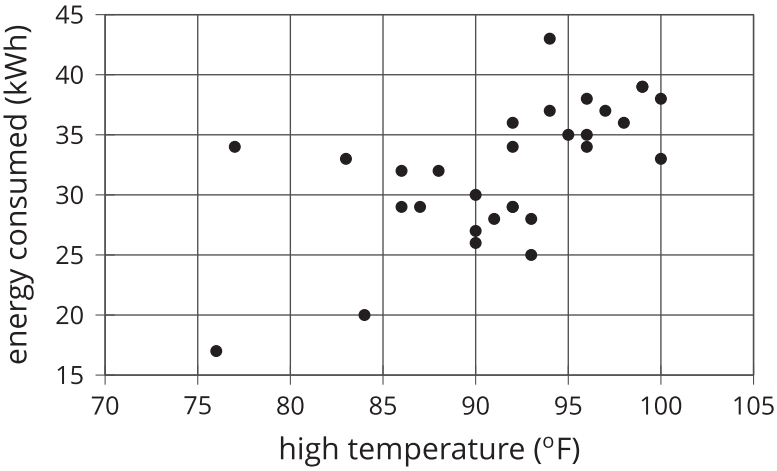
used car price vs. mileage



later battery life vs. initial battery life



daily energy consumption vs. average high temperature



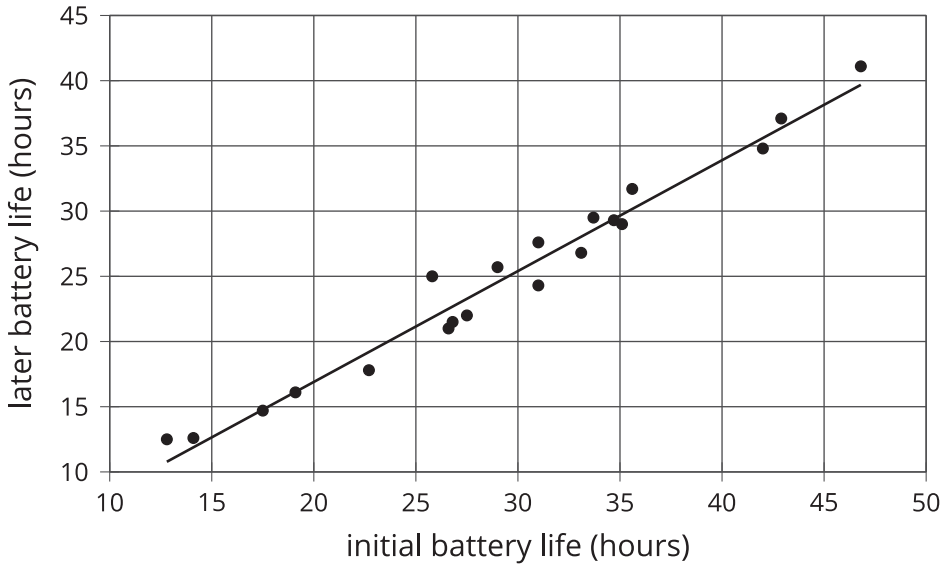
6.3 Interpreting Slopes

For each of the situations, a linear model for some data is shown.

1. What is the slope of the line in the scatter plot for each situation?
2. What is the meaning of the slope in that situation?

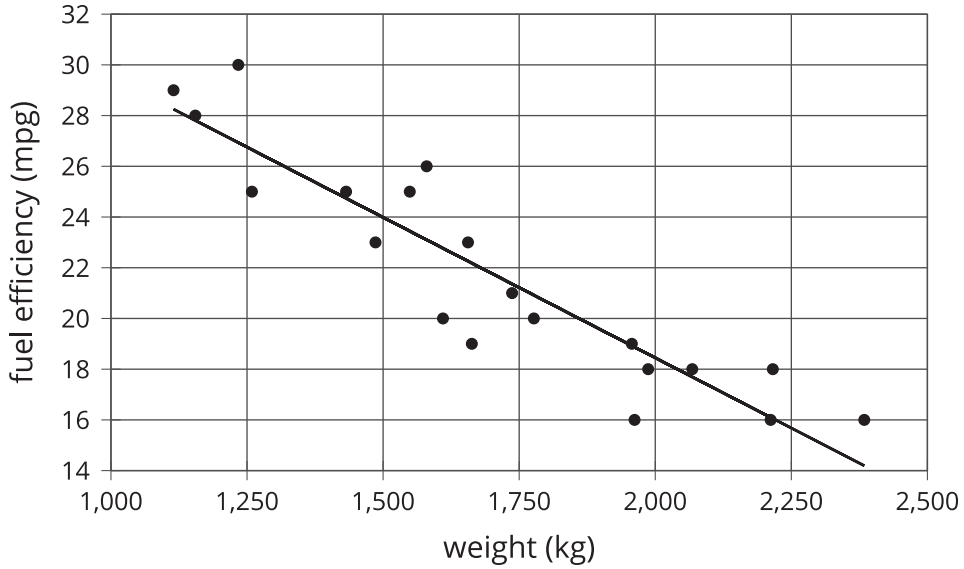
$y = 0.85x - 0.1$

later battery life vs. initial battery life



$y = -0.011x + 40.604$

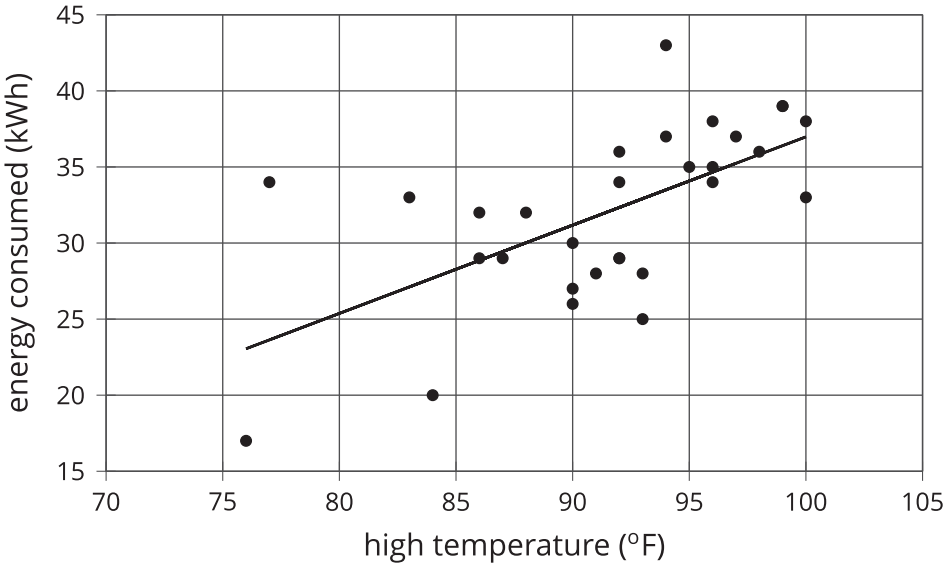
fuel efficiency vs. weight



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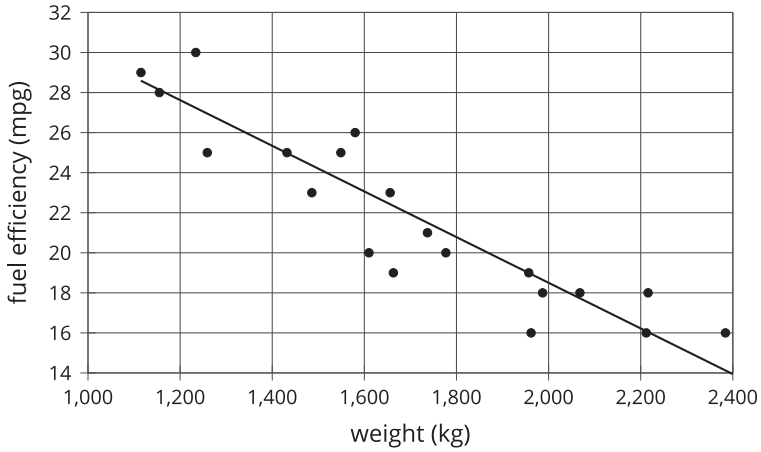
$y = 0.59x - 21.912$

daily energy consumption vs. average outside temperature



Are you ready for more?

The scatter plot shows the weight and fuel efficiency data used in an earlier lesson along with a linear model represented by the equation $y = -0.0114x + 41.3021$.



1. What is the value of the slope and what does it mean in this context?

2. What does the other number in the equation represent on the graph? What does it mean in context?

3. Use the equation to predict the fuel efficiency of a car that weighs 100 kilograms.

4. Use the equation to predict the weight of a car that has a fuel efficiency of 22 mpg.

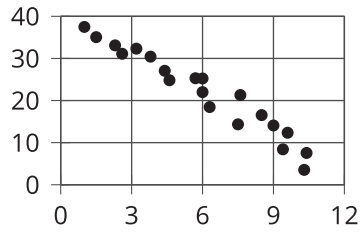
5. Which of these two predictions probably fits reality better? Explain.

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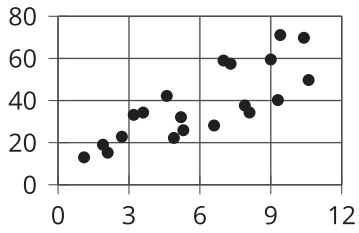
6.4 Positive or Negative?

1. For each of the scatter plots, decide whether it makes sense to fit a linear model to the data. If it does, would the graph of the model have a positive slope, a negative slope, or a slope of 0?

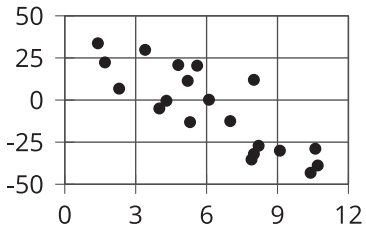
A



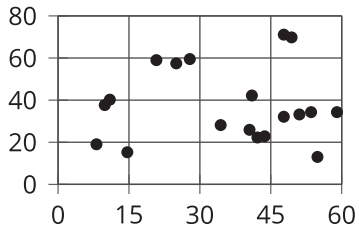
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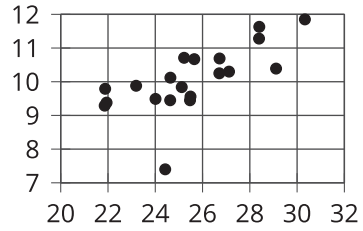
C



D



E



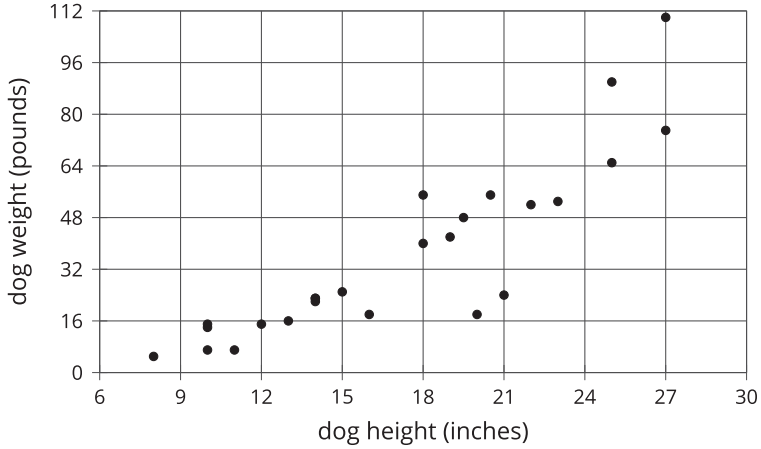
2. Which of these scatter plots show evidence of a positive association between the variables? Of a negative association? Which do not appear to show an association?

Lesson 6 Summary

Here is a scatter plot that we have seen before. As noted earlier, we can see from the scatter plot that taller dogs tend to weigh more than shorter dogs.

Another way to say it is that weight tends to increase as height increases.

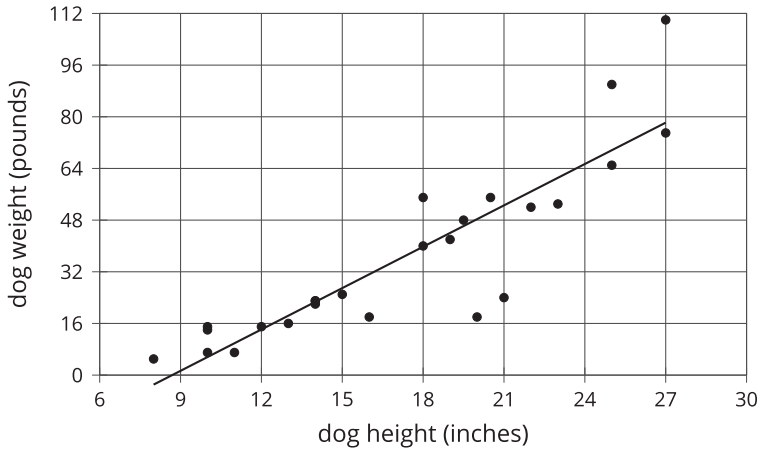
When we have a positive association between two variables, an increase in one means there tends to be an increase in the other.



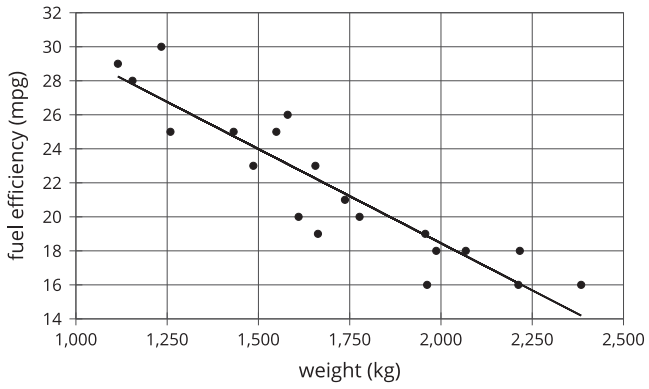
We can quantify this tendency by fitting a line to the data and finding its slope.

For example, the equation of the fitted line is $w = 4.27h - 37$, where h is the height of the dog and w is the predicted weight of the dog.

The slope is 4.27, which tells us that for every 1-inch increase in dog height, the weight is predicted to increase by 4.27 pounds.



In our example of the fuel efficiency and weight of a car, the slope of the fitted line shown is -0.01.



This tells us that for every 1-kilogram increase in the weight of the car, the fuel efficiency is predicted to decrease by 0.01 mile per gallon (or, after multiplying both values by 100, every 100-kilogram increase corresponds to a predicted decrease of 1 mpg).

When we have a negative association between two variables, an increase in one means there tends to be a decrease in the other.