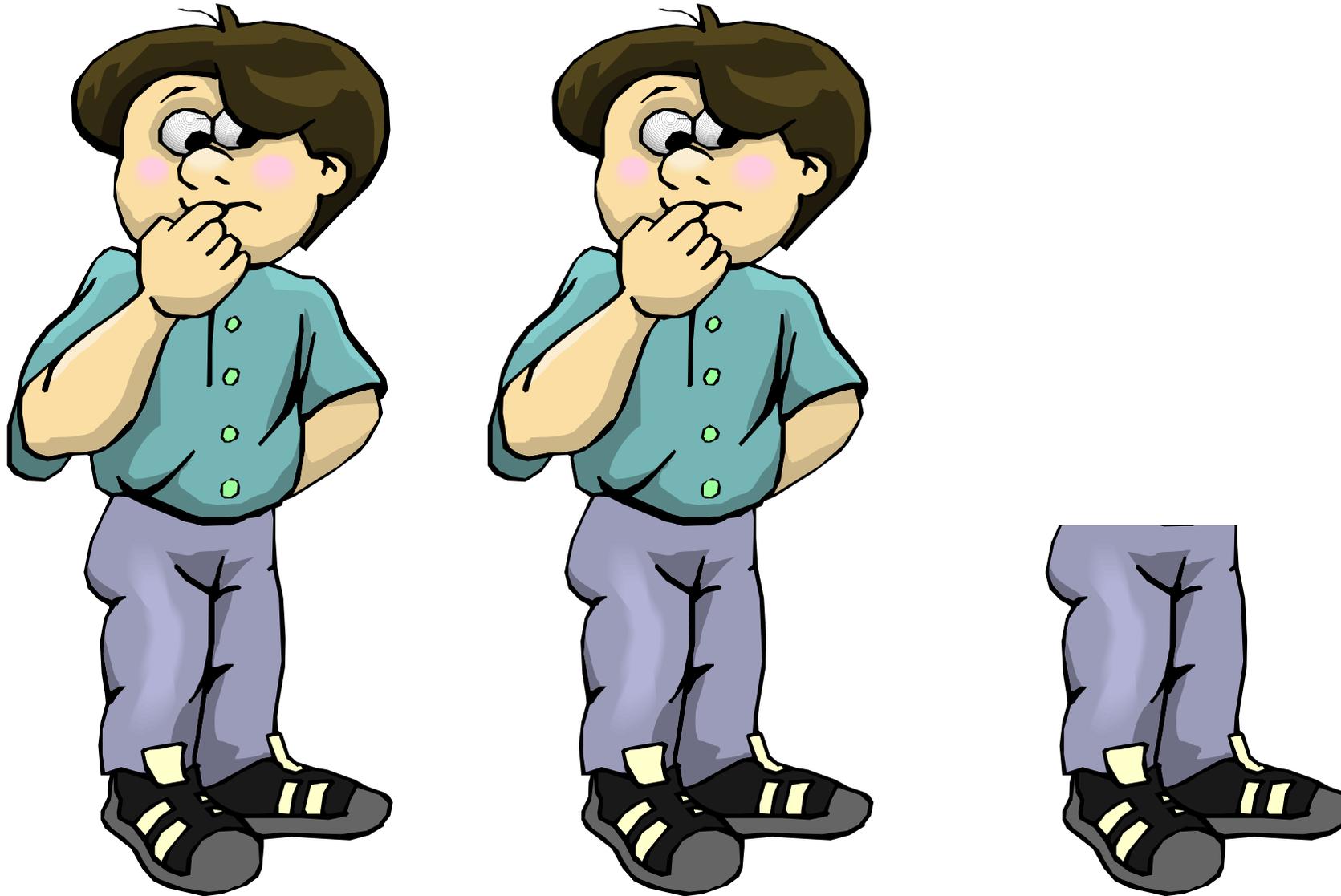
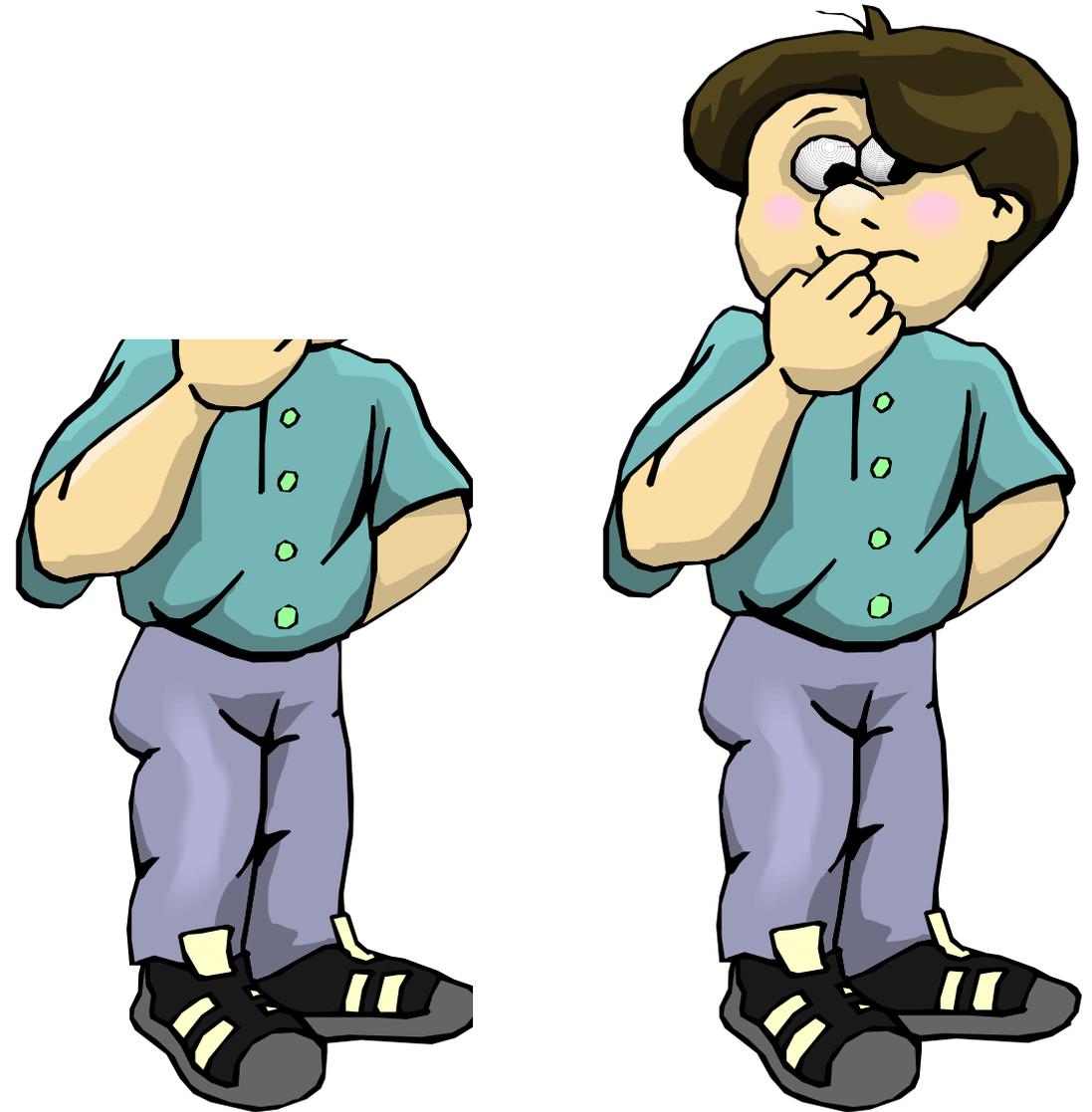


Can you really have 2.4 children?



or 1.7?



Impossible Averages - teaching Notes

Display or hand out pages 1 and 2. Ask students to discuss them in pairs or small groups. This can lead to interesting discussion about statistics in the media. Other possible points for discussion are listed below.

After discussion, clarify (if needed) that it doesn't matter, when referring to a mean average (also median average – if working with Level 2 students), if the answer is physically possible or not.

For further discussion you could point out to Level 2 students that the mode does give a real value – but a disadvantage of the mode is that you can have more than one!

Debbie Ellis

Can a football team really score 3.5 goals?

How would a team score half a goal?

Would one half of the ball go in and the other go out. Maybe it hit the goal post and split in half!

Can a house hold really own 2.7 televisions? Or 1.4 cars?

How would a house hold own 0.7 of a television or 0.4 of a car?

Think of other things where the average could be impossible.

Impossible averages are averages that in reality would be impossible.