



## Warm Up

# Confounding Variables

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Two variables are said to be confounding if the effect of one variable cannot be separated from the other. The confounder may not have been included in the research study.

A common example for confounding variables is as follows:

When ice cream sales increase, drownings tend to increase also.

Do you believe that selling more ice cream causes more drownings? \_\_\_\_\_

It is highly unlikely. In a situation like this, we should ask ourselves what is another variable that could have caused the drownings and is also tied to the increased ice cream sales.

What variable or variables could that be?

Now, here is the important part. Practice describing HOW the variable you selected is connected **both** the increased ice cream sales (the independent variable, also called the predictor variable) **and** increased drownings (the dependent variable, also called the response variable). You must connect the confounder to **both** the independent **and** dependent variables. Explain those connections below:

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**MAIN IDEAS:** List the Main Ideas for Today's Lesson

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