

Bad sampling

NAME:

Below is an example of a voluntary poll. Explain why this poll is not statistically valid. Be specific.

The screenshot shows the Yoga Journal website in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar shows <http://www.yogajournal.com/>. The website has a navigation menu with links like HOME, ABOUT YOGA, POSES, PRACTICE, HEALTH, OUTDOOR, MEDITATION, NEWS, TRAVEL, and FOR TEACHERS. The main content area features a large image of a person in a yoga pose, a search bar, and a featured pose section for Balasana. A sidebar on the left contains links like 'Welcome to Yoga Journal's website', 'Tour the site', 'Find yoga poses', 'Learn yoga basics', 'Ask yoga experts', 'Search for classes', 'Attend yoga events', and 'Buy videos, CDs, &'. Below the sidebar, there is a 'Weekly Poll' section titled 'What has helped you most with your headaches?'. The poll results are displayed as a horizontal bar chart with three categories: 1. pain relievers (41%), 2. yoga and relaxation (54%), and 3. biofeedback and other alternative therapies (6%). A 'Vote' button and a 'View results' link are present. To the right of the poll results, there is a section for 'Poll Results - Microsoft Internet Explorer' which includes a 'yoga JOURNAL' logo, a 'Poll Results' title, a question 'What has helped you most with your headaches?', a list of the same three options, a 'submit' button, and a 'Message:' field with a 'submit' button. A note above the message field asks users to elaborate on their response and send comments to pollwatch@yogajournal.com to appear in the magazine. The total number of votes cast is 454.

Find another example of a bad sample on the Web. This may include voluntary sampling, convenience sampling, or some other obviously bad sampling method. Go to www.google.com and put any subject and the word "poll" into the search engine. Press the "Print screen" button to capture a screen shot of your example of bad sampling. Open Word and select Paste from the Edit menu to paste your screen shot into Word. Write a few sentences describing your example.