

Negative numbers in context – Golf scores

Golfers aim to get round a course in the fewest number of shots, or '**strokes**'. For each hole on the course, there is an expected number of strokes it should take to get the ball in the hole. This number is known as '**par**'.

The winner is the one who gets the **lowest score**, by taking the **fewest** shots.

Some of the common golf scores have special names.

Score	Name	Definition
-4	Condor	four strokes under par
-3	Albatross	three strokes under par
-2	Eagle	two strokes under par
-1	Birdie	one stroke under par
0	Par	equal to par
+1	Bogey	one stroke over par
+2	Double bogey	two strokes over par
+3	Triple bogey	three strokes over par

Remember: a **negative** score means the player has taken **fewer** shots (strokes) than those who have a **positive** score.

Scores after 18 holes

Player	Country	Score
Tiger Woods	USA	-6
Lee Westwood	ENGLAND	-5
Rory McIlroy	N IRELAND	-4
Henrik Stenson	SWEDEN	-2
Matt Kuchar	USA	-2
Carl Pettersson	SWEDEN	0
Luke Donald	ENGLAND	+1
Justin Rose	ENGLAND	+3
Paul Lawrie	SCOTLAND	+5
Brandt Snedeker	USA	+6

Use the information in the tables to help you answer the questions.

- Which player has had the most successful day's play?
- What is the difference in the scores between the Swedish players?
- How many players scored 'over par'?
- How many players scored 'under par'?
- How many more shots has Paul Lawrie taken than Rory McIlroy?
- How many more shots has Lee Westwood taken than Justin Rose?
- What was the total score for all of the English players? What was the total score for the US players? Which had the best day's play?
- Luke Donald scored par on the last hole. How many fewer shots would he have taken if he had scored a birdie?
- If one player scores a double bogey and another player scores a birdie on the same hole, how many more shots has the first player taken?
- If you scored 3 bogeys, 7 pars, 6 birdies, 1 eagle and 1 double bogey, what would your total score be?