

Introduction to JASP & FAQs

What is JASP?

We're glad you asked! JASP stands for **J**effreys' **A**mazing **S**tatistical **P**rogram (not *any* Jeffrey; Sir Harold Jeffreys, British astronomer and statistician who lived from 1891-1989. Why him and not another statistician? That we don't know!)

How is JASP different from SPSS?

The most important difference: It's completely **free** (who doesn't like free?). You can download your shiny new version [right here](#). It's an open-source program run by researchers at the University of Amsterdam, who tried hard to make it as **user-friendly** as possible. Thanks to folks at the University of Amsterdam staying up-to-date on best practices in statistical analyses, user feedback, and bug reports, JASP gets updated *a lot*. So, your 207 partner or comp buddy may have a slightly different version than you, and our guides may be based on slightly different versions, but most of it you'll recognize to be the same.

For the statistically-inclined among you, JASP is also neat in that it can run classical *and* Bayesian analyses. (If this means nothing to you, that's totally ok... you didn't miss this in 206 or 207.)

How is JASP similar to SPSS?

It also uses an easy-to-understand point-and-click interface and, rest assured, it runs all the same analyses SPSS runs...and then some.

If I currently use SPSS, should I stay or should I go?

Good question. Here are a few things that might be helpful to know:

Points for SPSS

- You cannot enter or manipulate data in the JASP interface; you have to import all your data as .csv files (this can get a little tricky for Mac users, but we've got workarounds!)
- Calculating new variables (e.g., scale composites or averages) is clunky and less accessible than in SPSS (see point above on manipulating data)
- SPSS allows for more editing and tweaking of plots – most of JASP's plots are non-tweakable
- JASP does not currently allow more sophisticated “select cases” as is possible in SPSS

Points for JASP

- JASP generates the output *as you click*, so you can see changes or additions to the output right away.
- JASP calculates and reports confidence intervals and effect sizes.
- JASP allows you to test assumptions quickly and easily, and offers non-parametric options or adjustments.
- JASP says its output is in APA-style, but we've found you still need to manipulate some tables. Still, much closer to APA than SPSS output.