DAY 31 · Part 3 · What It Can Do

Turning 100 survey sheets into a graph: what comes first? — Tables and data

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Oct 7, 2026

The graph is just the last box. It's won or lost in making and fixing the table.

Today's answer

In a nutshell

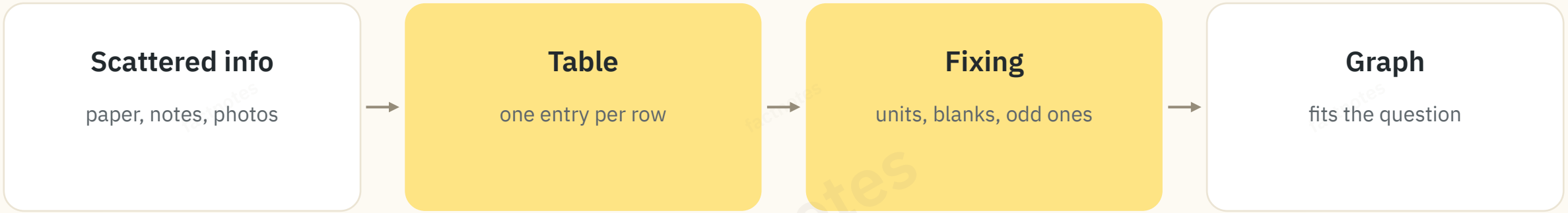
1. Don't draw scattered info straight into a graph. Stick to this order: **gather → table → fix → graph**.

2. Tables have a rule: **one entry per row, one value per cell**. Once things are lined up like this, people and AI can both calculate right away.

3. What AI is good at is **lining things up and calculating**. Whether units got mixed, there are blanks, or a weird value snuck in — you have to look for that yourself.

In one picture

Four boxes from info to graph



The two middle boxes look boring, but they matter most. Get them wrong and everything after them is wrong.

Key idea: the graph is just the result — it's won or lost in making and fixing the table

Experiment · Put it in order

From 100 survey sheets to a graph

The big order

1. Gather scattered info
2. Line it up in a table
3. Fix units and blanks
4. Draw the graph

Line it up in a table, then fix it — that's when you can see what's missing. A...

Table rules

1. One entry per row
2. One value per cell
3. Same column names
4. Mark missing cells

Once a cell holds two values, calculating gets stuck. Don't leave blanks empty,...

Picking a graph

1. Decide what you're asking
2. Comparing, or a trend?
3. Pick the graph
4. Label the scale and units

Comparing means bars; change over time means a line. If the scale doesn't start...

Tap the mixed-up pieces in the right order. If you skip a step, you'll find out where things break.

Try it yourself in the web lesson · next-token.net/en/learn/day-31/

Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

What's the right order for sorting out data?

① Graph → table → gather → fix
② Gather → table → fix → graph
③ Table → graph → gather → fix
④ Gather → graph → table → fix

Q2

What rule should you follow when making a table?

① Just leave blanks empty
② Fit as much as you can in one cell
③ One entry per row, one value per cell
④ Give columns different names in each row

Q3

Which of these is hard to hand to AI?

① Lining it up in a table
② Adding up totals
③ Drawing the graph
④ Noticing mixed-up units

Know the why, too

Q1

② Line it up in a table, then fix it — that's when you can see what's missing. A graph drawn before fixing is pretty, but it's a wrong picture.

Q2

③ Once a cell holds two values, calculating gets stuck. Write blanks down as something like "No answer" so they can be counted later.

Q3

④ You gathered the data, so you know best which rows are in centimeters and which are in meters. AI is fast at lining things up and calculating.

The graph is just the last box.
It's won or lost in making and fixing the table.



Tomorrow: Preparing a presentation — if you split the prep into pieces, how much can you hand off?