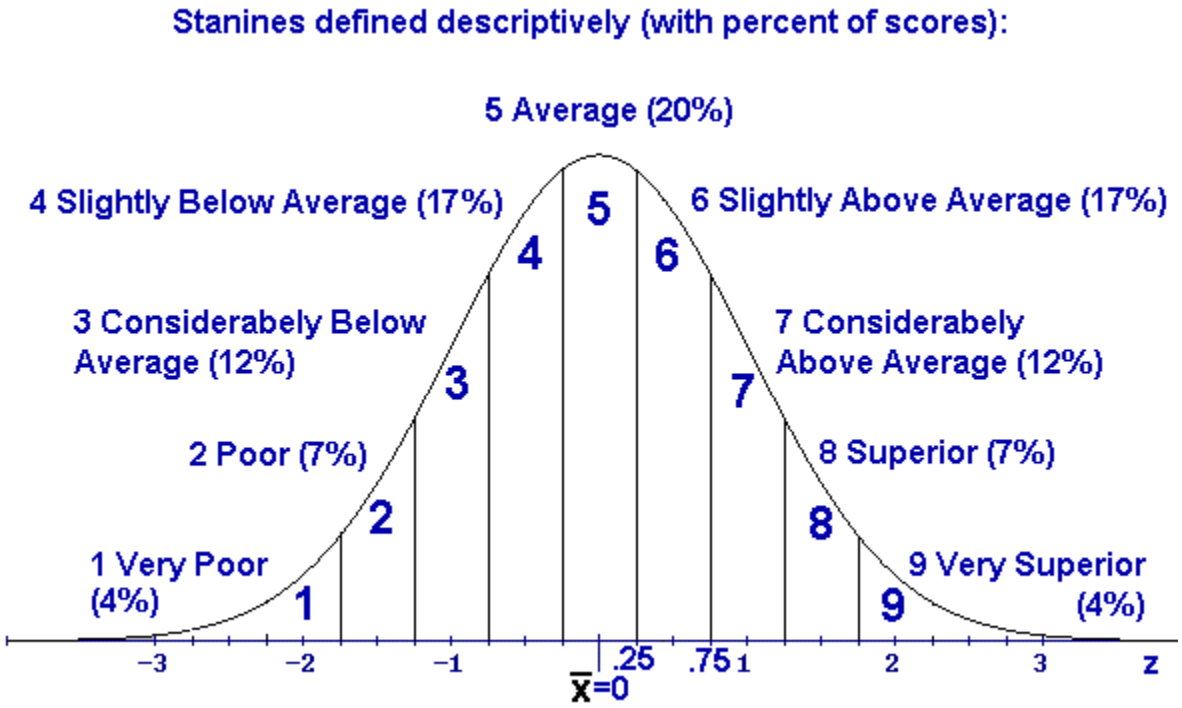
A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

A Standard Normal Distribution
With Nine Specific Intervals

There exists a normal distribution with a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. It is called the standard normal distribution.



When the center interval is within a quarter of a standard deviation of the mean, and each of the other intervals are a half standard deviation wide (exclusive of the tails), the distribution has been marked in stanines -- the standard nine intervals.

It is often used to:

- compare two or more distributions of data, particularly test scores.
- estimate or to compute probabilities of events involving normal distributions,
- facilitate using words rather than numbers in presenting statistical data

THE POINT IS: If your raw data closely conform to a particular bell-shaped curve, you can add some additional features and even lay out some descriptive judgments, for example, detailed descriptions of the differences between "Very Poor (4%) to Very Superior (4%). The hidden flaw are assumptions your situation doesn't meet.