Practice Run

1. A newspaper article states that one mayoral candidate has 63% support with a margin of error of $\pm 3.7\%$. Determine and interpret the confidence interval.

Compare your answers.

1. A newspaper article states that one mayoral candidate has 63% support with a margin of error of $\pm 3.7\%$. Determine and interpret the confidence interval.

$63\% - 3.7\% = 59.3\%$

$63\% + 3.7\% = 66.7\%$

The newspaper report can be interpreted to mean that it is very likely that the true value of the mayoral candidate's support is between 59.3% and 67.7%.

In *Example 1*, it was determined that the researcher, Angus Reid Public Opinion, was **fairly sure** that the percentage of all hockey fans that feel fights are not important to hockey is between 62.5% and 71.5%. 'fairly sure' is not a very clear statement – what does 'fairly sure' mean in statistics? To clarify this many reports will include a confidence level with their margin of error to define exactly how sure the researcher is. Consider the following excerpt.