KEY TERMS

A **frequency distribution** provides a means of organizing and summarizing data by classifying data values into class intervals and recording the number of data that fall into each class interval.

A **histogram** is a graphical representation of a frequency distribution. Bars are drawn over each class interval on a number line. The areas of the bars are proportional to the frequencies with which data fall into the class intervals.

The shape of a unimodal distribution of a quantitative variable may be **symmetric** (right side close to a mirror image of left side) or skewed to the right or left. A distribution is **skewed to the right** if the right tail of the distribution is longer than the left and is **skewed to the left** if the left tail of the distribution is longer than the right.
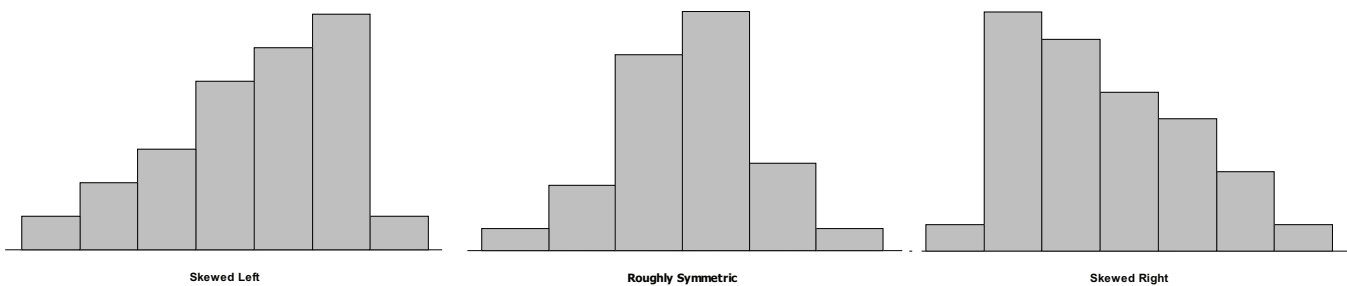

Figure 3.10. Shapes of histograms.