

## 5 Prepositions after adjectives and nouns

### 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a My brother is good at sport but he is very bad at English.  
b My brother is good in sport but he is very bad in English.
- 2 a The percentage in women attending university is increasing.  
b The percentage of women attending university is increasing.

Some adjectives are always followed by a specific preposition.

**At.** We say you are *bad at*, *good at* or *surprised at* something:

*I was surprised at the number of people who came.*

**About and with.** We say you are *angry about* or *pleased about* something but *angry with* or *pleased with* a person:

*I am pleased about your new job. I was really angry with John.*

After *disappointed* we use *about* or *with*; after *worried* we only use *about*:

*She was pretty disappointed with / about her exam results.*

*I am worried about John. They are worried about the test.*

Some nouns are always followed by a specific preposition.

**In.** We say *decrease in*, *drop in*, *fall in*, *increase in*, *rise in*:

*There was an increase in attendance at this month's meeting.*

**Between.** To contrast two things, we talk about the *difference between* them:

*The main difference between the American and the Canadian accent is in the vowels.*

**Of.** We say: *advantage of*, *disadvantage of*, *example of*, *number of*, *percentage of*, *use of*:

*The number of people in my class who smoke is incredible.*

### 2 Correct the mistake below.



### 3 Fill in the blanks using a word from this unit and the correct preposition.

- 1 I've never been very ..... painting or drawing.
- 2 The USA's population is far greater, so there is a big ..... the two totals.
- 3 One ..... saving money is that you will be able to enjoy your retirement.
- 4 The most dramatic ..... numbers occurred in 1997, with a 30% rise.
- 5 Peter was very ..... robotics, so he enjoyed the lecture very much.
- 6 The ..... children with obesity problems is increasing each year.
- 7 One ..... multi-tasking is reading emails while talking on the phone.
- 8 Fortunately, there was a steady ..... the number of road accidents.