15 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.



The class look ..... .

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS