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What is register?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a This type of work attracts a greater % of men than women.
b This type of work attracts a greater percentage of men than women.
- 2 a Many old people believe that kids have too much freedom nowadays.
b Many old people believe that children have too much freedom nowadays.

'Register' means using the right word in the right context. For formal essay writing, you must use a formal register. This means you should not use informal language. You should not use:

- informal vocabulary: not *kids*; *ok*; *bucks*; *heaps*. You should use a more formal equivalent instead: *children*; *all right* or *acceptable*; *money*; *many* or *a great deal*.
- symbols on their own in place of words: not %; \$; &; @. You should write the words in full: *percent*; *money*; *and*; *at*. Note that % and \$ should only be used with numerals. For smaller amounts we write \$50 (not *50 dollars*) and 75% (not *75 percent*). The noun form of *percent* is *percentage*.
- abbreviations: not *m*; *yrs*; *kgs*; *no*. You should write these words in full: *million*; *years*; *kilos/kilograms*; *number*.
- all capital letters: not *NOWADAYS PEOPLE THINK THAT...*. You should use capital letters only when appropriate: *Nowadays people think that...*

Look at the following examples:

Companies waste heaps of bucks on advertising. → *waste a great deal of money on...*

In 1986 the % rose to 67.5. → *the percentage rose to...*

Between the yrs 2001 and 2005, over 2m people died. → *the years... over 2 million...*

2 Correct the mistake below.

The new hospital cost over 200 million bucks to build.

The new hospital



3 Correct the register errors in the following sentences. There may be more than one.

- 1 Some people believe it is ok to hit small children.
- 2 Kids today are much more comfortable using technology than older people.
- 3 The no. of people without a job in the yr 2001 was 3.5m.
- 4 The government needs to create heaps of jobs to solve this problem.
- 5 A LARGE AMOUNT OF \$ IS SPENT ON DEVELOPING TOURISM.
- 6 The female employees tend to go out more during their lunch break than the guys.
- 7 35% of students agreed with the decision but the % that disagreed was far greater.
- 8 The baby blue whale gains 90 kgs per day.