21 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 ..... .

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS