15 Describing statistics: verbs

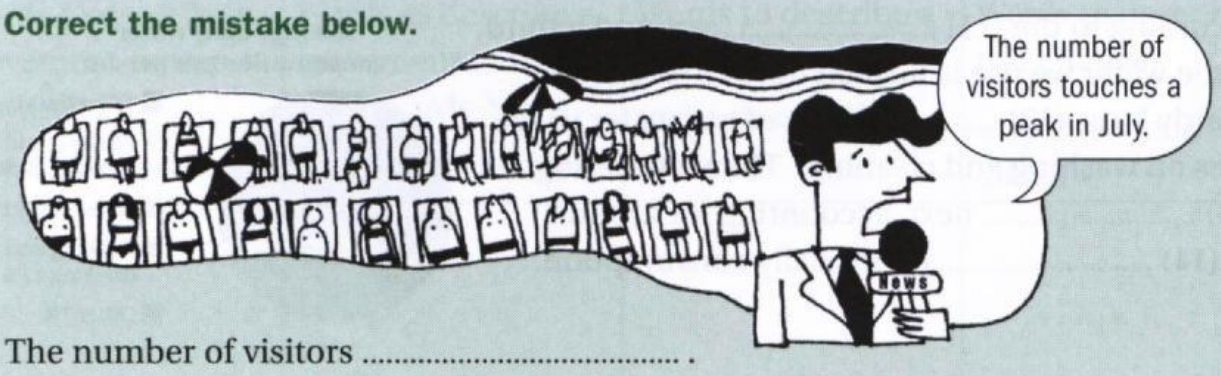
1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a The birth rate has reduced over the past ten years.
  b The birth rate has dropped over the past ten years.
2 a The graph shows a rise in the number of accidents involving cyclists.
  b The graph represents a rise in the number of accidents involving cyclists.

Common verbs used to describe graphs, charts and diagrams include:
*The chart/graph **shows** levels of post-school education in four countries.*
*The diagram **illustrates/represents** the structure of the political system.*
*The chart/graph **compares** average working hours in the UK and the US.*
***We can see** from the chart/graph **that** the number of visitors peaks in August.*

Common verbs used to describe figures and statistics include:
*The statistics/figures **suggest that** people in rural areas are healthier.*
*The figure will increase further, **reaching** 6 million in 2020.* (not ~~*touching 6 million*~~)
*Demand **rose** by 48% in just 2 years.* (not ~~*raised by 48%*~~)
*Time spent with the family **dropped** from 21% to just 6%.* (not ~~*reduced from 21%*~~)
☆ Verbs such as *rise, drop, decline* and *fall* describe a change which happens.
A person or organisation can *raise* or *reduce* something:
*The Bank of England has **raised** interest rates.*
*The Government has introduced measures to **reduce** traffic in the capital.*

2 Correct the mistake below.



The number of visitors ..... .

3 Complete the sentences using an appropriate verb.

1 The population of the city ..... to a high of 2.3 million in 1997.
2 From the chart, we can ..... that expenditure on IT has increased rapidly.
3 The inflation rate has ..... its lowest point in 10 years.
4 The chart ..... the amount of water consumed per person in each area.
5 Diagram 2.4 ..... the life cycle of a butterfly.
6 The results of the survey ..... that most people are dissatisfied with public transport.
7 The percentage of households without a phone ..... from 23% to just 4%.
8 To combat global warming, we all need to ..... the amount of energy we consume.

LIVEWORKSHEETS