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 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS