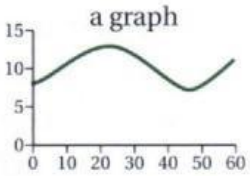
14 Describing statistics: nouns

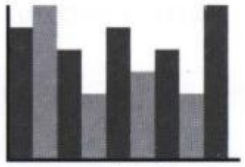
1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a Only four percentage of prisoners are women.
  b Only four percent of prisoners are women.
2 a The pie chart illustrates how electricity is used.
  b The pie graph illustrates how electricity is used.

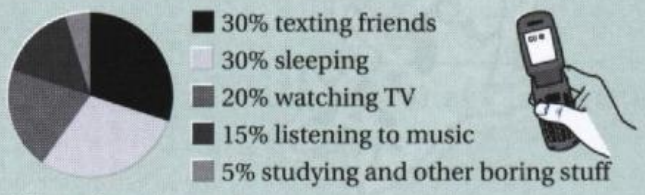
We use *percent* or the symbol % after a number:
*Sales fell by **two percent / 2%** last year.*
Percentage is the general noun to describe part of a total, expressed as parts of 100:
*The chart shows **the percentage of** households with more than one car.*
Proportion is also used to describe part of a total:
*Which country has **the** highest **proportion of** people living in poverty?*
Rate describes how often or how fast something happens, and some other measures:
***The rate of** growth is slower in developing countries.*
Also: *the unemployment/crime rate, the birth/death rate, the exchange/interest rate*

A *graph* has two lines (the *vertical axis* and the *horizontal axis*) marked with numbers, and a line or curve showing a trend.
A *chart* shows statistics in a visual form, often as coloured lines or columns (a *bar chart*) or as sections of a circle (a *pie chart*).
A *table* shows something, usually numbers, organised within a box in *rows* (going across ↔) and *columns* (going down ↕).
A *diagram* is a general word for something represented in a visual form – for example, showing how something works, the stages of a process, etc.




a chart

2 Correct the mistake below.



The pie chart shows proportion of an average day a student spends on different activities.

The pie chart shows ..... a student spends on different activities.

3 Underline the best word to complete each sentence.

1 The figures show the *rate/percentage* of flights delayed by more than 60 minutes.
2 The chart shows the *unemployment/unemployed* rates in six European countries.
3 The *diagram/chart* illustrates the planned layout of the buildings.
4 The operation has a seventy *percentage/percent* success rate.
5 The USA has the highest *proportion/rate* of people aged 65 and over.
6 Some people argue that violent films increase the *criminal/crime* rate.
7 The *percentage/percent* of over 50s who own a mobile phoned has increased.
8 The vertical axis of the *graph/pie chart* shows the number of hours per day.

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