

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%~~)

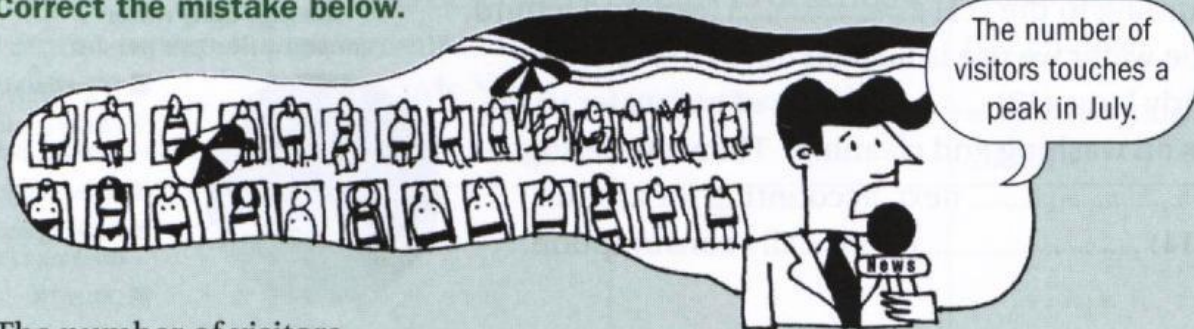
☆ Verbs such as *rise*, *drop*, *decline* and *fall* describe a change which happens.

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.