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## Verb confusion 2 – describing charts and figures

### 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a In 2002 the figure increased from 30% to 25%.  
b In 2002 the figure decreased from 30% to 25%.
- 2 a The flow chart displays the quantity of electricity consumed each year.  
b The flow chart shows the quantity of electricity consumed each year.

#### Describing charts

Graphs and charts can *show* facts:

*The two graphs show the number of people employed by the company in 1980 and 1990.*

We use *indicate* when we want to draw a conclusion about the figures in the charts:

*These figures indicate that the company is growing in size each year.*

We use *illustrate* to refer to evidence or proof of something:

*These figures illustrate the need for better management of our resources.*

We do not use *demonstrate*, *display* or *tell* to describe a chart. Compare the following:

*The salesman demonstrated the machine for us.* (= show how something works)

*Look at the figures displayed on the screen.* (= show on a screen)

*The girls' work was displayed for all to see.* (= make sure it can be easily seen)

*Did I tell you about my accident?* (= give a verbal or written account of a story)

#### Describing figures

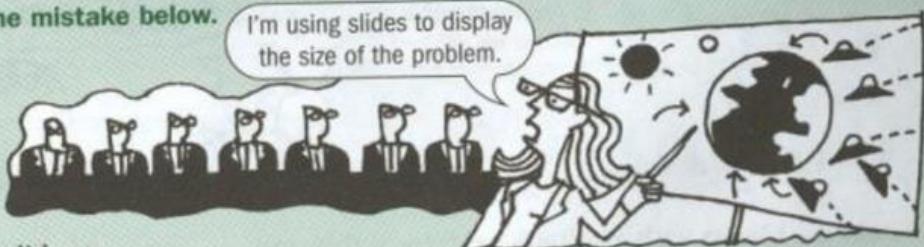
If figures go up, we use *increase* or *rise*: *Temperatures rose in May.*

If the figures go down, we use *decrease* or *fall*: *The number of bats fell in 2004.*

If the figures stay the same, we use *remain steady* or *show little/no change*: *The figures show little change since 2001.*

### 2 Correct the mistake below.

I'm using slides to display the size of the problem.



I'm using slides to .....

### 3 Choose the correct verb to complete the sentences below.

- 1 The figures *illustrate* / *indicate* that enormous changes have occurred.
- 2 The book *demonstrates* / *tells* the story of a young boy and his life in Africa.
- 3 The greatest *increase* / *decrease* was in 1997, when it peaked at 56 tonnes.
- 4 The pie chart on the right *illustrates* / *tells* how serious this problem has become.
- 5 Most shops use shelves to *display* / *show* their products.
- 6 The figures reached a low in 2002, when they *fell* / *rose* to only 15%.
- 7 The two graphs *indicate* / *show* the total number of men and women enrolled.
- 8 If you are unsure how the camera works, I can *demonstrate* / *show* it to you.