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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:

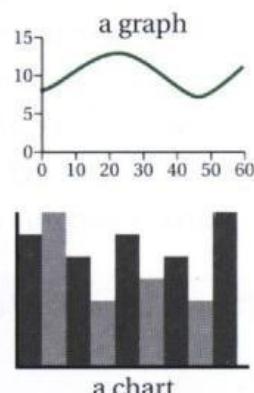
Which country has the highest proportion of people living in poverty?

Rate describes how often or how fast something happens, and some other measures:

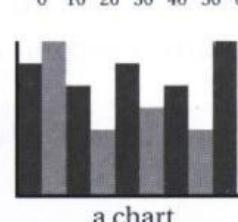
The rate of growth is slower in developing countries.

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.



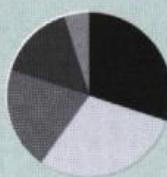
A *chart* shows statistics in a visual form, often as coloured lines or columns (a *bar chart*) or as sections of a circle (a *pie chart*).



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.

2 Correct the mistake below.



- 30% texting friends
- 30% sleeping
- 20% watching TV
- 15% listening to music
- 5% studying and other boring stuff



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 phone has increased.
- 8 The vertical axis of the *graph/pie chart* shows the number of hours per day.