16 Number and amount

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a The internet is becoming accessible to a growing amount of people.
  b The internet is becoming accessible to a growing number of people.
2 a The table shows the number of people who visited the gallery each day.
  b The table shows number of people who visited the gallery each day.

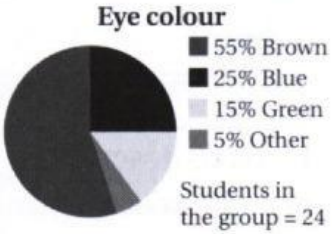
We use *number of* before a plural countable noun:
The chart shows the ***number of*** *hours/passengers/people/schools/times,* etc.

We use *amount of* before an uncountable noun:
If we look at the ***amount of*** *energy/food/information/money/time/waste,* etc … .

We use *the* + *number of/amount of* to talk generally about a quantity:
The number of *passengers carried each year has risen gradually.*
We need to reduce ***the amount of*** *water we waste.*

We often use *a/an* before an adjective + *number of/amount of*:
They spend ***a significant amount of*** *money on travel.* (not ~~*an important amount of*~~)
This is the best way to reach ***a large number of*** *people.* (not ~~*a big number of*~~)
But: ***the*** *average/greatest/largest/maximum/same/total number/amount of something*

Number and *amount* are used to describe the actual quantities of things or people. *Percentage, proportion, rate,* etc. are used to describe measurements as part of a total:
The percentage of students with blue eyes is 25%.
The number of students with blue eyes is 6.



2 Correct the mistake below.



I've definitely noticed an increase ..... .

3 Add *number of* or *amount of* to the words in italics. Also add articles (*the/a/an*).

1 Which country has *lowest people* living in poverty?
2 People were asked about *time* they spend doing different activities.
3 We looked at *customers* who were attracted into the shop by special offers.
4 The research compared *leisure time* spent with friends and with family members.
5 Such projects can generate *large money* for the tourism industry.
6 Statistics also show *total overseas students* at UK universities has risen.
7 They measured *average times* an employee checks their email per hour.
8 They're being asked to do *same work* in shorter hours.

LIVEWORKSHEETS