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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**)*

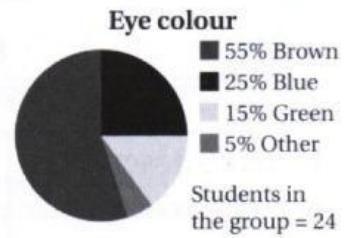
*This is the best way to reach **a large number of** people. (not **a big number of**)*

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.



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.