

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

In *C21 English for the 21st Century*, Levels 3 and 4, you learn to interpret bar charts, pie charts and line graphs. Knowing how to write about these kinds of visual display is crucial in many academic settings.

Practice

1 Look at Figure 1. Choose the correct preposition to complete each sentence.

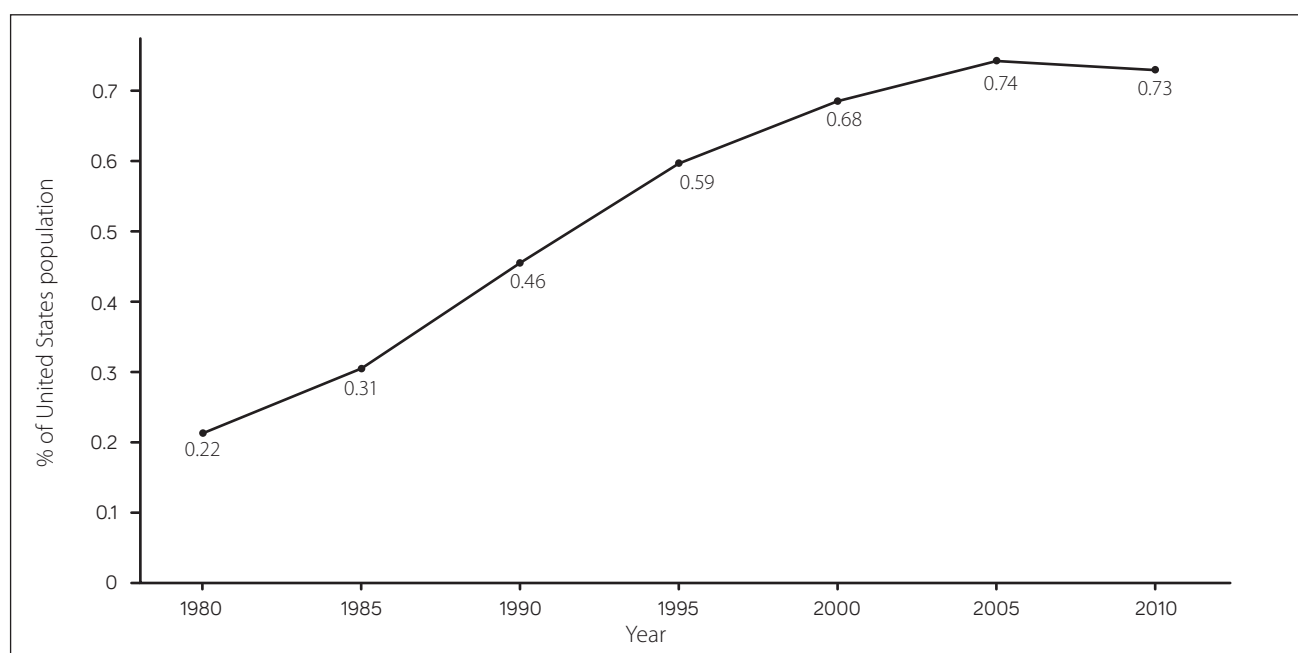


Figure 1: Percentage of United States population in prison, 1980–2010

Source: World Prison Brief, Institute for Criminal Policy Research (figures rounded)

- a** *By / Since / In* 1980, the percentage of the US population who are in prison has risen substantially.
- b** *In / Until / Between* ten years, the imprisonment rate more than doubled.
- c** *From / To / Between* 1980 and 1990, it rose from 0.22% to 0.46%.
- d** It continued to rise every five years *in / until / since* 2005.
- e** *To / Of / By* 2005, it had risen to 0.74%.
- f** Between 2005 and 2010, it decreased *by / to / from* 0.73%.
- g** The USA imprisons the highest percentage *of / in / from* its population in the world.

- 2** Look at Figure 2. Choose the correct comparative/superlative from the box to complete each sentence. Use each word once.

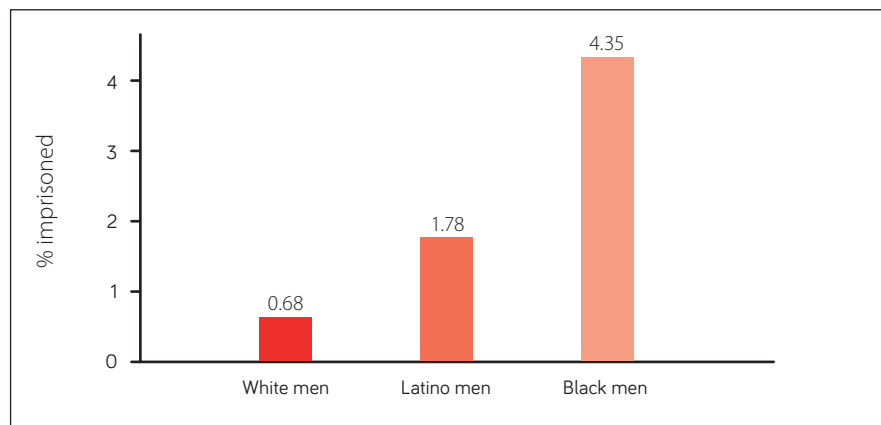


Figure 2: Percentage of men from each ethnic group who are imprisoned in USA

Source: *Correctional Populations in the United States, 2010*, US Department of Justice (figures rounded)

fewer

higher

least

less

lowest

more

most

- a White men have the _____ chance of going to prison.
 b Black men are imprisoned the _____.
 c A black man is about six times _____ likely to be imprisoned than a white man.
 d White men are also _____ often imprisoned than Latino men.
 e _____ Latinos are imprisoned than black men, however.
 f Overall, white men are imprisoned by far the _____.
 g Non-white men have a much _____ chance of going to prison.

TIP

Writing numbers

- In academic writing, you usually use numerals (0123456789) for numbers, percentages, measurements, dates and any other statistical information:
 62 years 5% 1.776 mm 10⁸ km 425,627 people 25 January 1975
- Occasionally you need to write the number as a word instead. For example, whole numbers between 1 and 10 are often written as words:
 five populations nine months
- For round numbers above 1,000,000, you can write a numeral followed by the word *million* or *billion*:
 2 million megatons 8.7 billion years 156 million species
- Likewise, fractions and simple multiples are often written as words:
 half of the students three-quarters of the participants
- If it's important to be precise, write large numbers and fractions as numerals:
 £156,782,199.76 0.75°
- Different academic subjects sometimes have different rules for writing numbers. Your supervisor or lecturer can help you with this. If you're not sure, it's always better to use numerals.

- 3** Look at Figure 3 and Figure 4. Write numbers to complete the sentences. The numbers can be quantities, years or percentages. Remember to use symbols or to write numbers as words if you need to.

		El Salvador	Indonesia	Nigeria	Russia	UK	USA
Year	2006	14,771	116,688	40,953	823,403	78,150	2,258,792
	2016	36,824	202,623	63,142	646,085	85,348	2,121,600

Figure 3: Total number of people in prison in selected countries, 2006/2016

Source: World Prison Brief, Institute for Criminal Policy Research

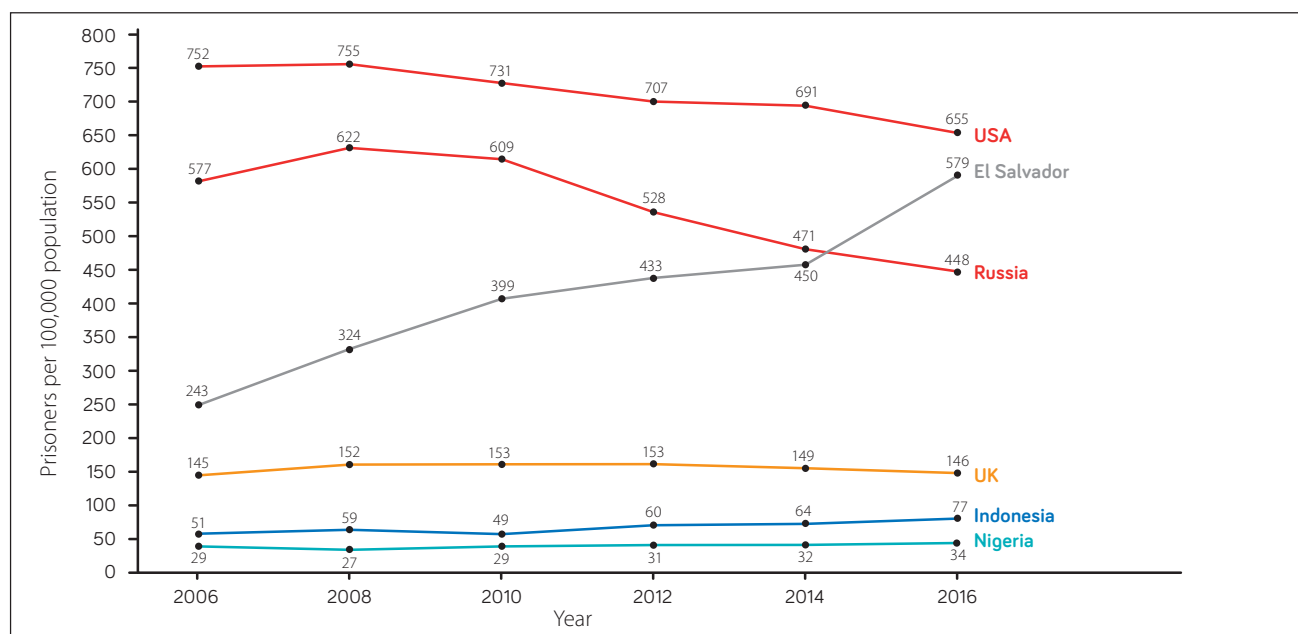


Figure 4: Rate of imprisonment in selected countries, 2006–16


Source: World Prison Brief, Institute for Criminal Policy Research

- There were about _____ people in prison in Indonesia in 2016.
- In Nigeria in 2012, there were 31 prisoners per _____ population.
- In the UK in _____, 78,150 people were in prison.
- Between 2012 and 2014, the number of prisoners per 100,000 population in Indonesia increased by _____.
- In El Salvador in 2008, there were _____ prisoners per 100,000 population.
- In the USA in 2016, about _____ people were in prison.
- Between 2006 and 2016, the number of people in prison increased by more than 100% in El Salvador, by more than 70% in Indonesia, and by more than _____ in Nigeria.
- In 2016, there were more than _____ times as many prisoners in Russia than in Nigeria.


- 4** Look again at Figure 3 and Figure 4. Choose the correct phrase (1–8) to complete each sentence (a–h). Write the number in the space.

- 1 decreased moderately
- 2 fell by almost 200,000
- 3 increased by about 7,000
- 4 increased steadily
- 5 more than doubled
- 6 rose substantially
- 7 rose to 153 and then fell again
- 8 was the highest of all countries in the ten-year period

- a Between 2006 and 2016, the number of prisoners in El Salvador _____.
- b The rate of imprisonment in the UK _____.
- c The greatest decrease in prison population occurred in Russia, where numbers _____ between 2006 and 2016.
- d Between 2008 and 2016, the rate of imprisonment in Nigeria _____.
- e In Indonesia, both the prison population and the rate of imprisonment _____ over the ten-year period.
- f The smallest change in prison population was in the UK, where the number of prisoners _____.
- g In Russia, the imprisonment rate _____ between 2008 and 2010, then decreased dramatically between 2010 and 2012.
- h The US imprisonment rate in 2008 _____.

- 5**  Write five more sentences about the information in Figure 3 and Figure 4. (You can use sentences from Exercises 1–4 as models.) Make some of your sentences true and some false. Then swap with a partner. Correct your partner's false sentences.

Reflect

- 6**  Reread the Tip box. What are the rules for writing numbers in your academic subject?
- Work with a partner to make a list of examples from books or research papers on your reading list.
 - Do all the books/papers follow the same rules?