

Describing Statistics



Describing statistics is a basic academic writing skill. Findings can be presented in percentages, fractions or other expressions.

Language for Describing Percentages and Fractions







a/one fifth (1/5)

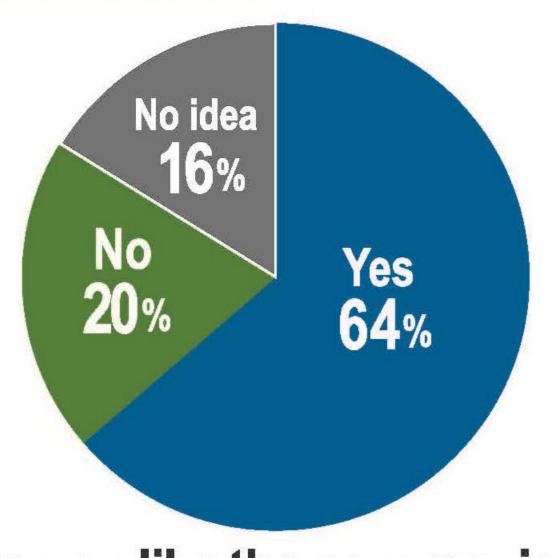
slightly over one fifth a/one quarter

(1/4)

about alone third

Percentage	Expressions to paraphrase percentages or show approximation and proportion
90%	a vast majority
73%	a significant majority // approximately three quarters
66%	a large proportion // around two thirds
60%	well over half
39%	about/nearly/slightly under/almost two-fifths
35%	just over a third
25%	exactly/precisely a quarter
18%	(only) a small minority // slightly less than a fifth
10%	a small proportion/number // one in ten

Example



Do you like the new movie?

Is the new movie popular with the respondents?

- ✓ About/Around/Approximately/Almost/Nearly/Slightly less than two thirds of the respondents like the movie, while one-fifth/a fifth of them do not.
- ✓ The majority of the respondents (64%) like the new movie.
- ✓ Well over half of the respondents like the new movie.

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