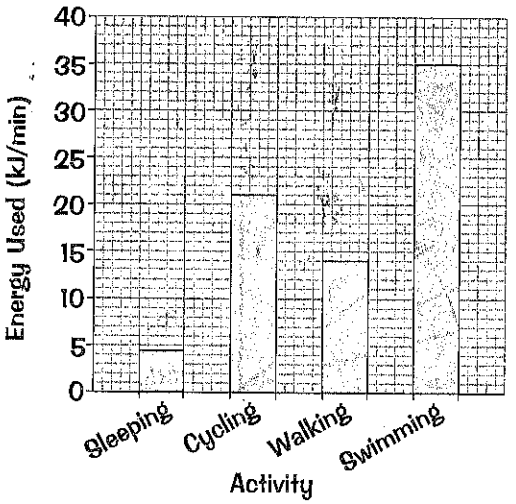
Interpreting Bar Charts

Bar charts are really useful for comparing data, and they're really pretty too... (Well, I think so).

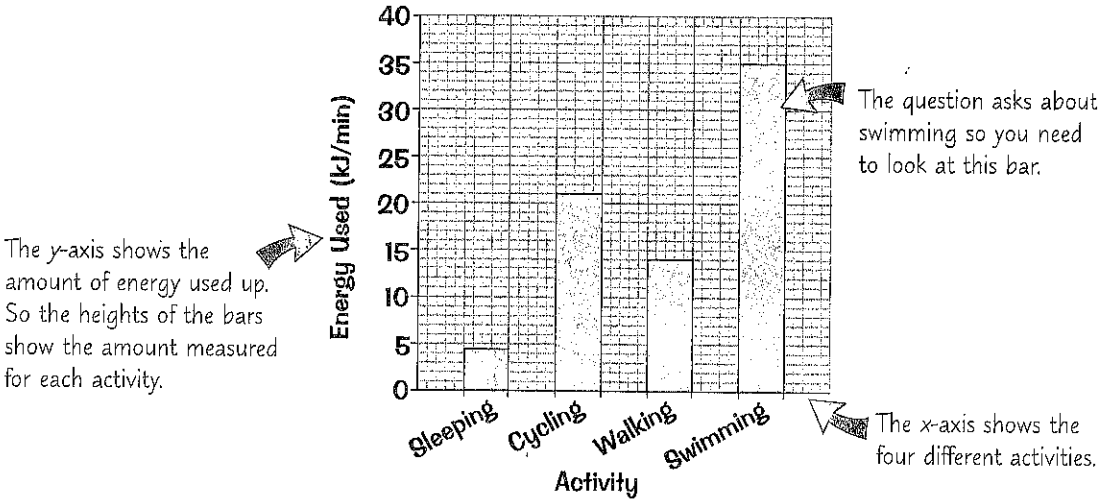
Example

A student was comparing how much energy four different activities use. The results are shown in this bar chart.

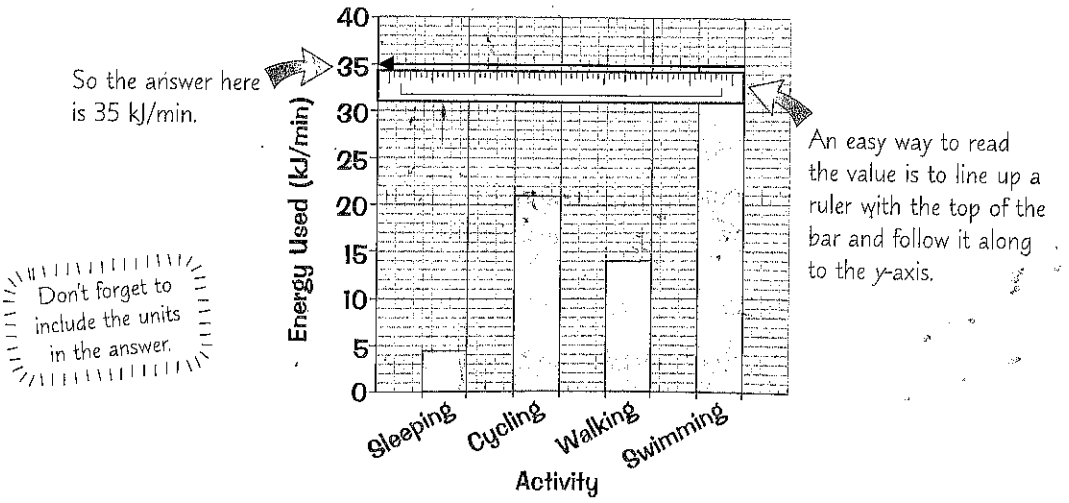
How much energy per minute does swimming use up?



1 Pick the bar you need to look at.



2 Read across from the height of the bar to the value on the *y*-axis.

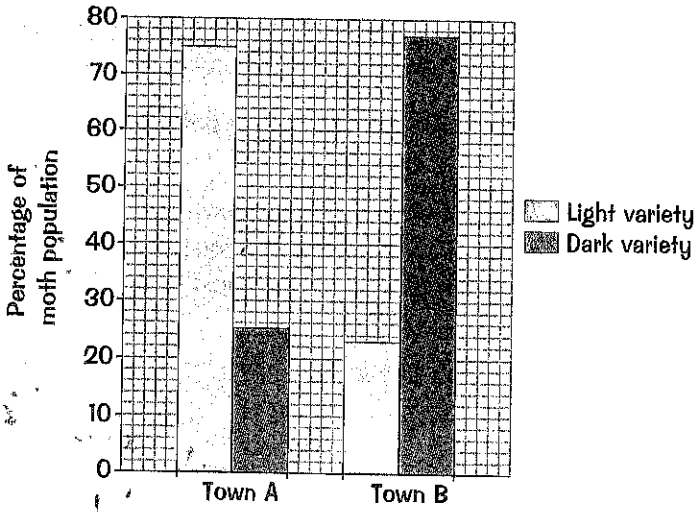


3 Time to limbo.

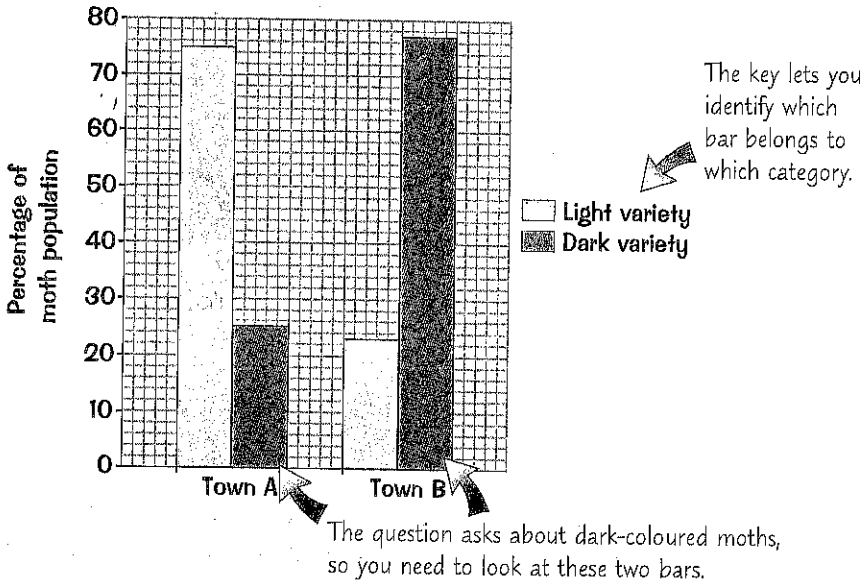
Example

The percentages of dark- and light-coloured moths in two different towns are shown in the bar chart opposite.

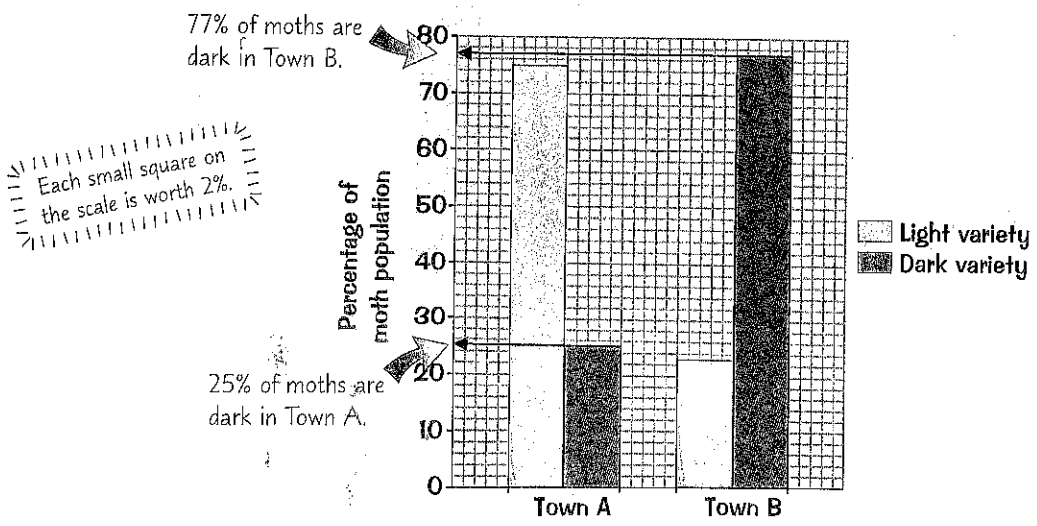
What is the difference between the percentages of dark-coloured moths in town A and town B?



1 Pick the bars you need to look at.



2 Read the values from the *y*-axis.



3 Subtract the smaller value from the bigger one to find the difference.

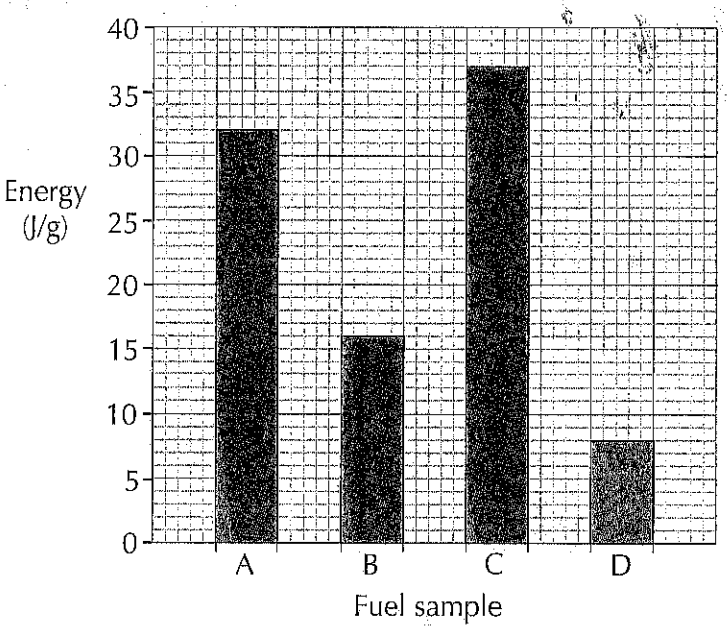
77% – 25% = 52%

Interpreting Bar Charts

Right, your turn. Grab a ruler and have a go at getting the info out of these bar charts.

Q1 Julie did an experiment to compare the energy content of four fuel samples. Her results are shown in the graph below. Which fuel sample had the highest energy content?

CHEMISTRY



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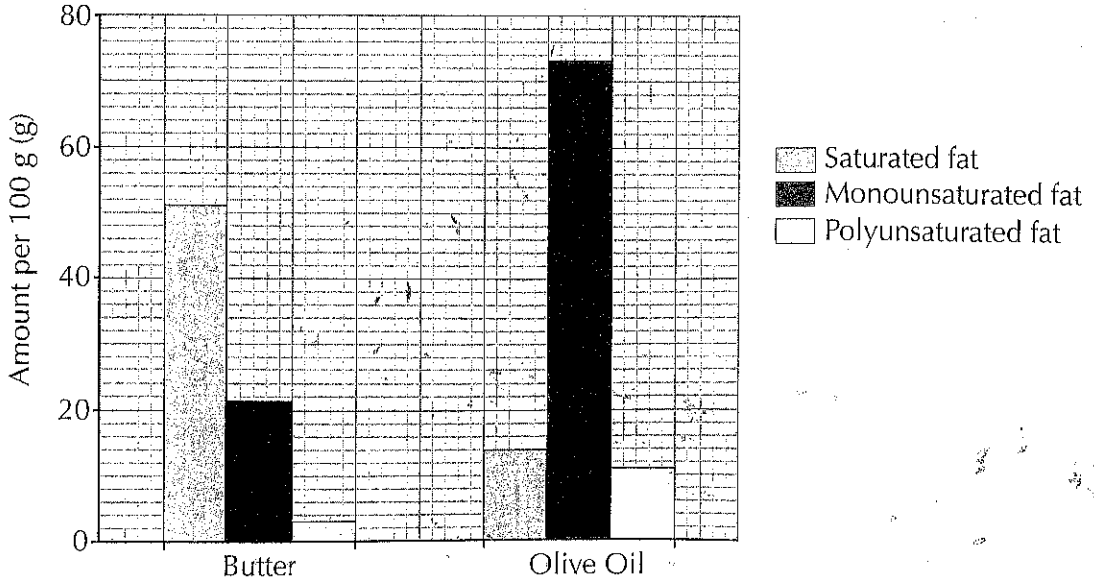
Q2 The fat content of butter and olive oil were investigated and the results displayed in a graph. How much more saturated fat does butter contain compared to olive oil?

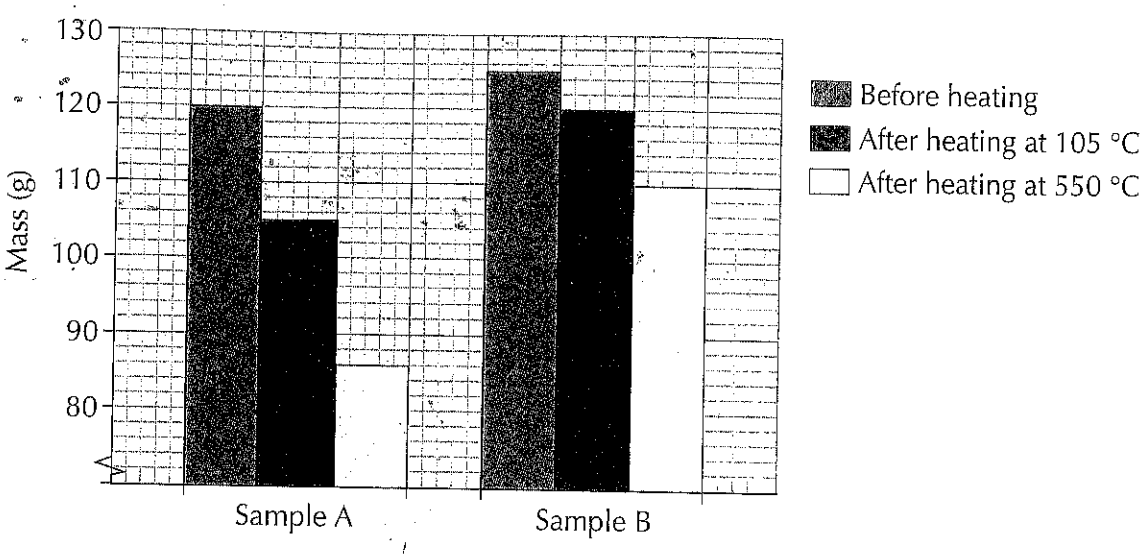
BIOLOGY



..... g per 100g

Q3 Yvonne carried out an experiment to compare the amounts of water and decomposing material in two different soil samples. She heated the samples twice — once at 105 °C and again at 550 °C. How much more mass did sample A lose after the two heating stages than sample B?

BIOLOGY



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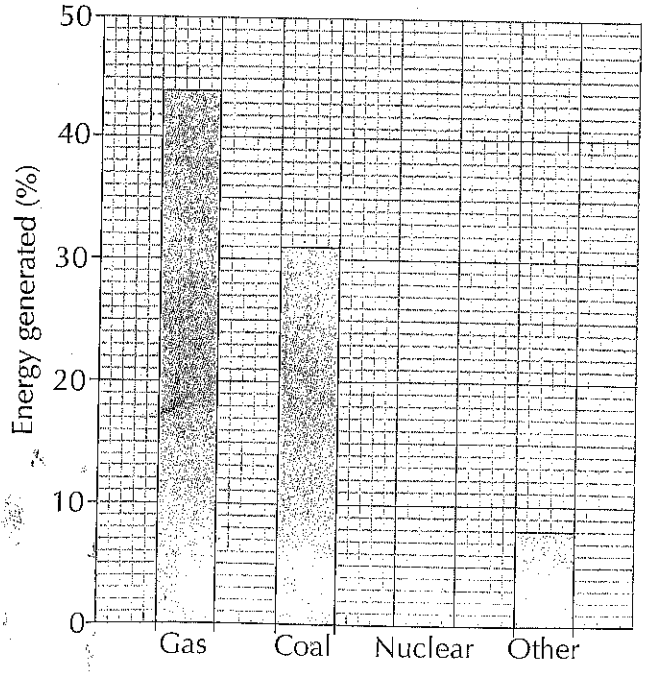
Q4 Josh is plotting a bar graph of the energy sources a country uses to generate electricity. What percentage should his bar for 'nuclear' be worth?

PHYSICS



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