



Spotlight 3

Language to describe changes 1: Verbs and adverbs

In paragraphs 3 and 4, you will need to have a good range of grammar and vocabulary to describe the changes in the graph, including the use of verbs and adverbs, e.g. *The income of Lovely Loaves **rose slightly***.

1 Put the past simple of these verbs in the correct column of the table below. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.

~~decline~~ decrease double drop fall go down go up grow halve improve
increase jump plummet plunge rise rocket shoot up soar surge

| verbs to describe increases | verbs to describe decreases | verbs to describe big increases | verbs to describe big decreases |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | declined | | |

Verbs which describe big increases or decreases, like *soared* or *plummeted*, don't need an adverb, because we already know that they describe a large change. However, all the verbs in the first two columns of the table above need an adverb, to tell the reader what kind of increase or decrease you are talking about.

2 Which of the adverbs in the box below describe:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 a big change? <i>dramatically</i> | 5 a slow change? |
| 2 a small change? | 6 a comment by the writer? |
| 3 a medium-size change? | 7 a consistent increase or decrease? |
| 4 a fast change? | |

considerably ~~dramatically~~ gradually marginally
negligibly rapidly remarkably sharply significantly
slightly steadily strikingly

3 Look again at the graph on page 79 and complete these sentences with a suitable verb and adverb.

- The income of Bernie's Buns between 2006 and 2008.
- The amount of money earned by Robbie's Bakery between 2008 and 2010.
- Earnings of Lovely Loaves between 2004 and 2005.

4 The verbs and verb phrases in bold in these sentences all describe changes. Check their meaning in a dictionary and add any more that you know.

- Income **fluctuated** and then levelled off.
- Income **hit/reached a peak**.
- Earnings **dipped** slightly and **recovered**.
- The figure **remained stable** in the first three years.
- Income increased steadily **year on year**.
- Income **hit a trough**.
- Earnings **worsened** in the last three years.



Spotlight 4

Language to describe changes 2: Adjectives and nouns

You can also describe changes using adjective and nouns. Most of the vocabulary is the same, but you need to learn the adjective and noun forms.

*There was a **considerable rise** in the income of Robbie's Bakery.*

*The income of Robbie's Bakery **saw/experienced/witnessed a considerable rise**.*

1 Complete this table with the noun forms of the verbs.

| past simple verb | noun | past simple verb | noun |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| rose | 1 <i>a rise</i> | fluctuated | 9 |
| fell | 2 | plunged | 10 |
| levelled off | 3 | decreased | 11 |
| declined | 4 | dipped | 12 |
| soared | 5 | recovered | 13 |
| plummeted | 6 | jumped | 14 |
| increased | 7 | surged | 15 |
| dropped | 8 | grew | 16 |

In most cases, to form an adjective, you just need to remove the *-ly* from the adverb, e.g. *sharply* – *sharp*. In some cases, you need to change the spelling of the adjective a little bit.

2 Write the adjectival form of these adverbs. Check your spelling in a dictionary.

- 1 dramatically *dramatic* 2 steadily 3 considerably
4 negligibly 5 remarkably

3 Write a sentence with an adjective and noun to describe each of these changes in the graph on page 79.

- 1 Bernie's Buns, 2006–2008 *There was a considerable rise in income.*
2 Robbie's Bakery, 2007–2008
3 Bernie's Buns, 2001–2002
4 Lovely Loaves, 2004–2005

4 Rewrite these sentences, changing them to verb–adverb or adjective–noun.

- 1 Sales of DVDs in the UK rose sharply between 2001 and 2004.
There was *a sharp rise in sales of DVDs* in the UK between 2001 and 2004.
2 Chocolate production in Colombia saw a significant fall.
Chocolate production in Colombia
3 There was a steady growth in average incomes in Europe between 1998 and 2004.
Average incomes in Europe between 1998 and 2004.

5 Write some sentences about yourself, and get a partner to rewrite them.

Example: *The amount of chocolate I ate before my IELTS exam rose dramatically.*
There was ...

Tip

In Spotlights 3 and 4, you have studied verb–adverb phrases and adjective–noun phrases. It is important to practise both, and to feel confident with them in the exam.

Model answer: Graphs with a trend

The graph shows information about the amount of money which was earned by three bakeries in London, over a ten-year period between 2000 and 2010.

Overall, what stands out from the graph is that there were considerable upward trends in the income of both Bernie's Buns and Robbie's Bakery, while the earnings of Lovely Loaves saw a considerable fall over the period in question. Another interesting point is that Lovely Loaves was the most popular bakery in 2000, but in 2010, Robbie's Bakery earned more money than the others.

Looking at the details, as regards Bernie's Buns, income started at £20,000 in 2000, then there was a fluctuation over the next three years, at which point it

levelled off at just under £40,000 until 2006. Then the figure went up significantly, finishing at around £65,000 in 2010. If we look at Robbie's Bakery, the trend was similar. Having remained stable at approximately £55,000 in the first half of the decade, income then rose sharply, reaching nearly £100,000 in 2008. There was then a gradual rise to around £105,000 in 2010.

By contrast, the income of Lovely Loaves went in the opposite direction. Takings fluctuated around £90,000 until 2004. After that, despite falling sharply to just over £40,000 in 2008, the figure then levelled off in the last two years.

(217 words)

1 Read the model answer. In paragraphs 3 and 4, find:

- 1 another phrase to introduce a new line of the graph: *as regards, ...*
- 2 two more phrases which mean *about*, to describe numbers: *just under, ...*
- 3 another grammar structure to join two ideas together: *Having remained stable, ...*
- 4 a linking phrase which means *on the other hand*
- 5 two synonyms of *income*

2 Rewrite these sentences from the model answer in another way.

- 1 Income then rose sharply. *There ...*
- 2 There was then a gradual rise to around £105,000. *The figure ...*

3 Work with a partner. What other phrases or structures could you use from this model answer?

Linking phrases to introduce new sections of the graph

You can see that in the model answer, the writer uses the linking phrases *as regards* and *If we look at ...* to show that a new part of the graph is being discussed. This is a good way to improve the organization and academic style of your answer.

Similar phrases are *Regarding*, *As for* and *With respect to*.

When you use these linking phrases, you generally need to repeat the subject of the sentence.

Regarding the income of Bernie's Buns, it started at £20,000 in 2000, and then ...

4 Rewrite these sentences using the linking phrases in brackets.

- 1 The income of Robbie's Bakery began at just under £60,000. (*with respect to*)
- 2 The amount of money which was earned by Bernie's Buns in 2000 was £20,000. (*if we look at*)
- 3 The earnings of Robbie's Bakery remained stable during the first five years of the graph. (*as for*)
- 4 Income for Lovely Loaves fluctuated considerably between 2000 and 2005. (*regarding*)

5 Look back at the answer you wrote in Exercise 1 on page 79, and add some linking phrases from Exercise 4 where appropriate.

Exam skills 1: Joining two changes together

In paragraphs 3 and 4, you need to join changes together into longer sentences.

*Income remained stable between 2000 and 2004, **and then** there was a steady rise in the next two years.*

There are lots of ways you can join two ideas together in an interesting way.

1 Read this paragraph and underline all the linking words and phrases which mean **and then**.

Income of Bernie's Buns started at £20,000 in 2000, and after that there was a slight rise to £23,000 in 2001. Following this, the figure fell slightly to £21,000 in 2002, after which income rose sharply in 2003. At this point, the number levelled off until 2005. Next, there was a slight dip in 2006, but this was followed by a sharp increase to £60,000 in 2008. Subsequently, income went up gradually in the last two years.

2 Join these changes together using the linking phrase in brackets. Make any other necessary changes.

1 Income began at just over £80,000. Income went up slightly to £95,000 in 2001.
(*and then*)

Income began at just over £80,000, and then it went up slightly to £95,000 in 2001.

2 There was a steady fall to £80,000. Income recovered to £90,000 in 2004. (*after which*)

3 Earnings dropped sharply to just over £60,000. There was a slight dip. (*At this point*)

4 There was a slight rise to just under £60,000. The figure went down considerably.
(*Subsequently*)

5 Income fell significantly to £40,000. The number levelled off. (*Next*)

Despite ... and Having ...

You can also use these two structures to join together two changes. Make sure you study how to use them carefully. Don't forget: if you use the *Having* structure, you need the past participle (e.g. *Having fallen ...*).

3 What are the irregular past participles of these verbs?

1 fall *fallen* 2 grow 3 rise

4 Choose the correct form of each verb. Check the model answer if you need to.

1 Despite *falling* / *fell* sharply to just above £40,000, the figure then rose in 2010.

2 Having *remained* / *remaining* stable at £55,000, income then rose sharply in 2008.

5 Rewrite these sentences using the words in brackets.

1 There was a steady decline to £80,000, and then income recovered to £90,000 in 2004. (*Despite ...*)

2 Earnings dropped sharply to just over £60,000, but then rose slightly. (*Having ...*)

6 Use the linking phrases from Exercise 1 and *despite/having* to join these ideas to form a good paragraph. Check your answer on page 123.

Income of Lovely Loaves began at just over £80,000 in 2000. There was a slight rise to around £95,000 in 2001. The figure went down steadily to £80,000 in 2003. There was a slight increase to around £90,000 in 2004. There was a sharp fall to just over £60,000 in 2005. Income dipped in 2006. There was a negligible increase to just under £60,000 in 2007. Income fell considerably to £40,000 in 2008. The figure levelled off in the last two years.

Exam skills 2: Prepositions and articles

In Task 1, examiners are looking to see how accurate your writing is. Using the correct prepositions is a way to make it more precise.

1 Read this paragraph and choose the correct prepositions.

As regards Robbie's Bakery, income started **1** *to / at* £55,000 in 2000 and remained stable **2** *at / to* this figure **3** *during / until* 2005. At this point, there was a sharp rise **4** *to / at* £70,000. Between 2007 and 2008, the figure went up **5** *to / by* around £30,000, **6** *to / from* £70,000 **7** *at / to* nearly £100,000. Finally, income grew gradually, and peaked **8** *at / to* £105,000 in 2010. If we look at Lovely Loaves, earnings fluctuated **9** *between / at* £80,000 and £90,000 in the first five years, and then there was a sharp fall **10** *to / at* £40,000 in 2008. Finally, the figure levelled off **11** *to / at* £40,000, and finished **12** *to / at* the same figure.

2 Check your answers to Exercise 1, then work with a partner to complete these rules for using prepositions.

- 1 With *started* and *finished*, use *at*.
Example: Income started *at* £55,000.
- 2 With *increases* or *decreases*, use
Example: There was a sharp rise £70,000.
- 3 With *remained stable* and *levelled off*, use
- 4 With *peaked*, use
- 5 To describe how much something *increases* or *decreases*, use
Example: The figure went up around £30,000.
- 6 To describe the range of fluctuation, use
Example: Earnings fluctuated £80,000 and £90,000.

3 Add the missing prepositions to this paragraph.

If we look at Bernie's Buns, income started £20,000 in 2000, and then there was a slight rise £25,000 in 2001. At this point, the figure fell back just over £20,000, followed by a slight increase just under £40,000. Earnings then levelled off £39,000, and then fell marginally £38,000. Income then rose £23,000, £38,000 £61,000. In the next two years, there was a gradual rise around £62,000, and then the figure peaked around £65,000.

4 Write paragraphs 3 and 4 for the graph about types of employment in the Check and challenge on page 90. When you have finished, check your prepositions.

Using correct articles

Another way to make your writing more accurate is to use articles (*a/an* and *the*) correctly.

5 There are 12 more missing articles in these paragraphs. Add them in the correct places and compare your answers with a partner.

The Graph shows information about amount of money which was earned by three bakeries in London, over ten-year period between 2000 and 2010.

Overall, what stands out from graph is that there was downward trend in income of Lovely Loaves, while amount of money earned by other two bakeries rose over period in question.

Turning to details, as regards Lovely Loaves, figure started at just over £80,000 in 2000, and then there was considerable fluctuation until 2005. Following this, its income levelled off at just under £60,000 until 2007. Having fallen sharply to £40,000 in 2008, income of Lovely Loaves then remained stable during last two years.

Tip

Many languages do not use articles at all, and therefore it can be difficult to use them correctly. Use a grammar book to do some extra practice on articles. It will help you in both Task 1 and Task 2.

Exam skills 3: Commenting on the data in a graph

To take your Task 1 essay to the next level, try to comment on the data, rather than just give a list of numbers. Add one or two comments to show that you understand and can interpret the graph. Here are some ways you can do this.

- Compare the different parts of the graph, using a relative clause:
The income of Lovely Loaves fell significantly to around £40,000 in 2008, which meant that it earned far less than the other bakeries.
- Comment on the peak:
There was a considerable rise in the takings of Robbie's Bakery in the last two years to £105,000, this figure being the peak level of income during the whole period.
- Add an extra verb to give emphasis:
The income of Robbie's Bakery rose sharply in 2008, rocketing to just under £100,000.
- Add a superlative:
Lovely Loaves earned just over £80,000 in 2000. This meant that it had the highest income of the three bakeries in that year.
- Group data into a period of time:
There was a significant fluctuation in the income of Lovely Loaves in the first half of the decade.

1 Use the ideas above to complete these comments on the graph on page 79.

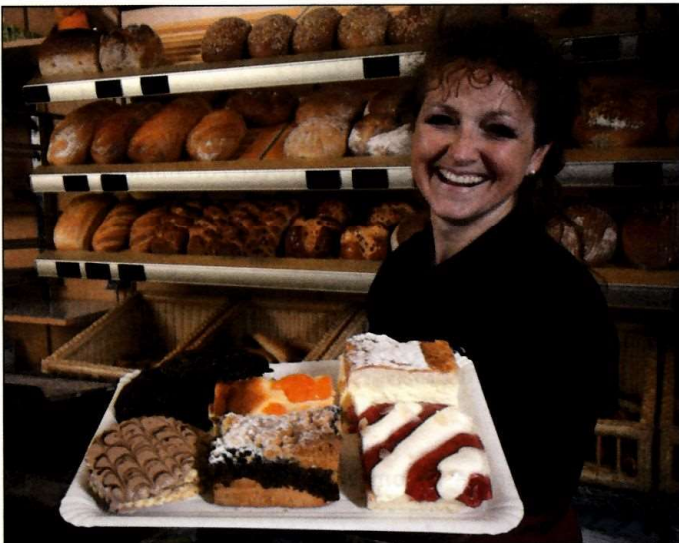
- 1 The earnings of Bernie's Buns were £20,000 in 2000, which was the lowest income of the three bakeries.
- 2 The income of Lovely Loaves fell sharply in 2005, p..... to just over £60,000.
- 3 The income of Robbie's Bakery remained stable in the first of the period.
- 4 There was a sharp rise in the income of Robbie's Bakery between 2005 and 2008, which meant that it earned far than the other bakeries.
- 5 Lovely Loaves' income fell considerably to £40,000 in 2008. This meant that it had the income of the three bakeries.

2 Complete the comments in this paragraph with one word in each gap.

If we look at Bernie's Buns, it started at £20,000 in 2000, which was the 1 income of the three bakeries at this point. After that, it started to rise and went up sharply to around £60,000 in 2008, which meant that it earned 2 money than Lovely Loaves. Finally, the earnings of Bernie's Buns rose gradually, 3 at around £65,000 in 2010.

3 Look at the graph on page 90 and complete these sentences with a comment.

- 1 Forty-eight per cent of people worked in the private sector in 2000, which meant ...
- 2 There was a slight rise in the percentage of people who worked in the public sector, to just over 50% in 2010, this figure being ...
- 3 The percentage of people employed in the public sector rose sharply between 2002 and 2004, soaring ...
- 4 The percentage of people who worked in the private sector went down steadily to 20% in 2010. This meant ...

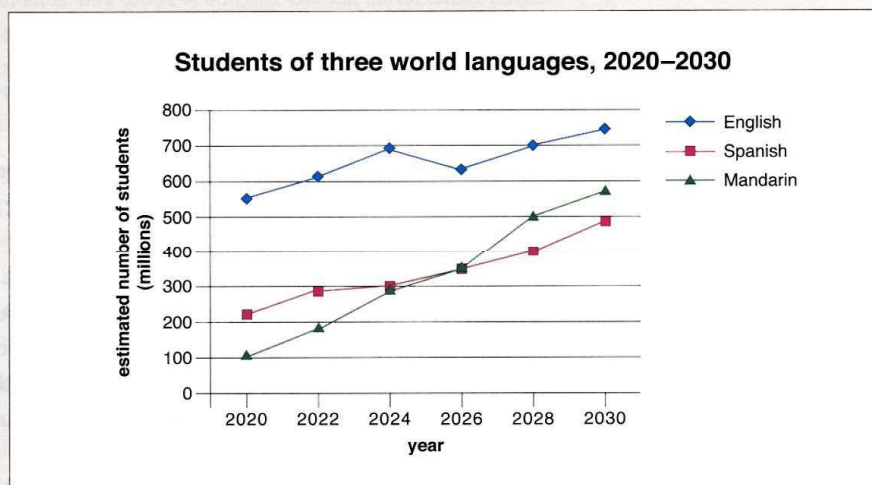


Next steps 1: Writing about graphs with a future trend

Sometimes in the exam you can be asked to write about a graph with a future trend. You should write your answer in the same way as before, but instead of using the past simple, change the grammar and use future tenses.

1 Look at this essay question and discuss how to write an answer to it.

The graph below shows predictions about the number of people who will study three major world languages between 2020 and 2030. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



2 Change the phrases in bold in these sentences to the future, using *will*.

- The number of students of Spanish **rose considerably**.
The number of students of Spanish *will rise considerably*.
- There was a steady rise** in the number of people who study English.
There in the number of people who study English.
- The number students of Mandarin **rocketed**.
The number of people who study Mandarin

3 Match the two halves of these sentences containing academic phrases.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 The number of students of English | a the number of students of Spanish is likely to increase steadily. |
| 2 By 2030, the number of students of Mandarin | b is set to reach over 700 million. |
| 3 Projections show that | c will have risen sharply to over 500 million. |

4 Use the language in Exercise 3 to write some sentences of your own about the graph in Exercise 1.

Example: *By 2030, the number of students of Mandarin will have overtaken students of Spanish.*

5 Write an answer for the graph in Exercise 1. Compare it with the sample student answer on page 128.

Tip

Try to use academic phrases for describing future trends to make your writing more interesting. For example:
It is estimated that the number of students of Spanish **will rise significantly**.