


Writing

1 Interpreting charts, tables, graphs and diagrams

Vocabulary: choosing the right words

 The **Cambridge Learner Corpus** tells us that IELTS candidates often make errors such as these:

A large amount of people enjoy snow sports. ✗

The quantity of men looking after children at home is growing. ✗

Get it right!

number is used with countable nouns: A small **number** of cars are still made by hand. ✓

amount is used with uncountable nouns: The desert contains a large **amount** of sand. ✓

quantity is often used for things that can be measured: The world consumes a large **quantity** of oil. ✓

Often the plural form is used: Elephants consume large **quantities** of vegetation. ✓

Some uncountable nouns go better with *level* than *amount*: The **level** of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is rising. ✓

A phrase is often formed by putting *level(s)* after the noun: crime **levels** ✓

All these words are used with the preposition *of* when they come before the noun.

NB *Figure(s)* is sometimes used to replace *numbers* when describing data, e.g. though we say *number of people in a country*, we refer to *population figures*.

- 1 Complete these sentences using one of the words in the box. You may have to form a plural.


quantity (of)	number (of)	amount (of)	level (of)	figure
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Example

The number of female managers in companies has increased.

- 1 There has been a decrease in the fruit consumed by children in the last twenty years.
- 2 The graph shows the tourists who visited Brazil between 2000 and 2006 and the money they spent.
- 3 Pollution in industrialised countries increased rapidly during the last century.
- 4 The population for developing countries are predicted to decrease over the next 50 years.
- 5 In summer the ultraviolet in sunlight is higher than in winter.
- 6 Large palm oil are being produced in Brunei.
- 7 Solar panels and wind farms can generate a large power.
- 8 Increasing schoolchildren are being educated to the age of 16 and beyond.

Vocabulary: choosing words that go well together

 The **Cambridge Learner Corpus** tells us that IELTS candidates often make errors such as these:

a big amount X

the great level X

More number of people watch television in the evening than during the day. X

Get it right!

Use *huge/great/large/small* with *number, amount* and *quantity*: a *large* amount ✓

Use *high/low* with *level* and *figures*: a *high* level ✓; low inflation figures ✓

Be careful with comparatives and superlatives:

A *greater* number of people / *More* people watch television in the evening than during the day. ✓

2 Correct the highlighted phrases.

Example

There is a **low** number of computers in primary schools in Africa.

There is a small number of computers in primary schools in Africa.

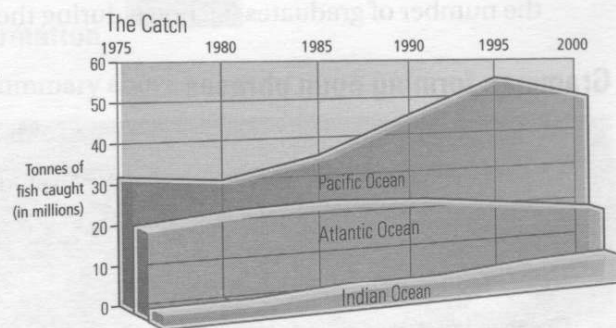
- 1 Vegetable soup contains a **low** quantity of fat.
- 2 The company has ordered a **high** number of IT equipment.
- 3 Some planes carry a **very great** amount of passengers.
- 4 Smog levels were **large** in the middle of the day.
- 5 The reptile museum receives a **little** quantity of visitors during the day.
- 6 A **high** number of chocolate is made in Belgium.
- 7 Cholesterol levels are **small** in Asian countries.
- 8 Planes produce **more** amount of pollution than cars.

3 Write a one-sentence introduction to each chart below, then complete the gaps in the sentences.

- 1 The fish caught in the Pacific Ocean is that caught in the other two oceans.

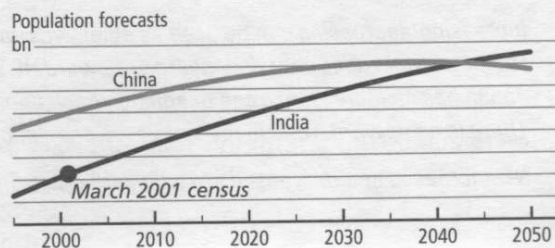
- 2 The fish is caught in the Indian Ocean.

- 3 fish is caught in the Atlantic Ocean than the Indian Ocean.



- 4 Between 2000 and 2040, the population figures for China are predicted to be than those for India.

- 5 In 2050, it is predicted that people will be living in India than in China.



Writing

2 Describing trends

Grammar: using correct verb forms

🕒 The Cambridge Learner Corpus tells us that IELTS candidates often make errors such as this:

Then in 1992, the number of storms rised up to ten. X

Get it right!

*Then in 1992, the number of storms **rose to** ten. ✓*

Learn these verb forms:

rise – rose – has/have risen fall – fell – has/have fallen

When adding the data and using *to*, you must not use *down* or *up* with these verbs.

NB Use a *rise/fall in* + noun: *There was a significant **fall in** the number of animals in the park. ✓*

1 Read the box above and then correct the highlighted words in the following sentences.

- 1 In some countries, unemployment is **raising** fast.
- 2 At 3 p.m. each day audience figures are expected to **rise up** to about 45,000.
- 3 Pollution levels **rised** since 1997 **at** 60 parts per million.
- 4 Spending **falls down** in 2003 **into** approximately US\$ 33 billion and then **raise** steadily in the next two years.
- 5 In the next ten years, average literacy levels **are going to raise** to record levels worldwide but the number of graduates **fell down** during the same period.

Grammar: forming noun phrases

🕒 The Cambridge Learner Corpus tells us that IELTS candidates often make errors such as this:

There was a slightly increased in the number of fires in the dry season. X

Get it right!

The noun forms are *increase/decrease* and both are used with the preposition *in*:

*There was a slight **increase** in the number of fires in the dry season. ✓*

Increasing/decreasing can be used as adjectives with *number*, *amount* and *levels*.

The noun *trend* goes with *downward* or *upward* NOT *increasing*.

*Japan has an **increasing trend** of ageing population. X*

*There is an **upward trend** in the age of the population in Japan. ✓*

NB *Increased* and *decreased* are past participles. *Increasement* is not a word.

- 2 Read the box on the previous page and then correct the highlighted parts of the following sentences. Add any necessary words.

Example

The graph shows a huge increased trend of people working from home.

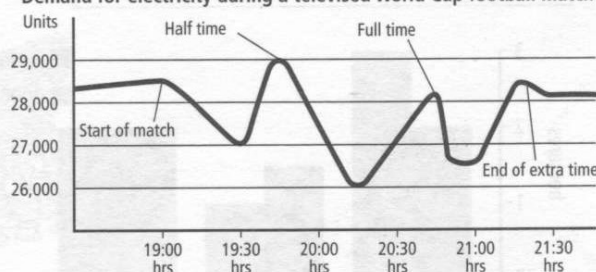
The graph shows an upward trend in the number of people working from home.

- 1 There was a decrease of demand for sportswear in winter.
- 2 There is an increased figure for paper used in offices.
- 3 The chart predicts a slight decreased birth rate.
- 4 Between 1995 and 2005, a decreased trend of crime took place.
- 5 After 2009, a steady increasement in the population is predicted.

Vocabulary: using precise words

- 3 Fill the gaps in the summary of this graph with an appropriate word or phrase. Use adjectives and adverbs to make the description as precise as possible and add any necessary prepositions. Some words are given to help you.

Demand for electricity during a televised World Cup football match



Before the match begins, demand for electricity is 1 *constant* at about 28,500 units. There is a 2 (fall) *slight fall* in demand during the first half of the match but then demand 3 (rise) a peak of 29,000 units during half time. At the start of the second half, the demand for electricity 4 (drop) and hits its 5 (point) at 26,000 units.

In the thirty minutes before full time, the graph shows a 6 (rise) just over 28,000 units. However, at the beginning of extra time there is another 7 (fall) and a levelling off for a short period, before demand 8 (return) normal.

Content: providing an overview of the information

- 4 Add the introduction and overview to the summary above.
- 5 Write an introduction and overview to the table below.

Percentage of Japanese school-leavers going to university					
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Boys	15	25	40	33	42
Girls	3	8	12	15	25
Total	18	33	52	48	67

Coherence: linking ideas

- 6 Write the rest of the answer for the table above. Try to use words or phrases from the box to link your ideas. Compare your answer with the key, underlining the linkers in both.

but then although but even though generally
however overall this which while with

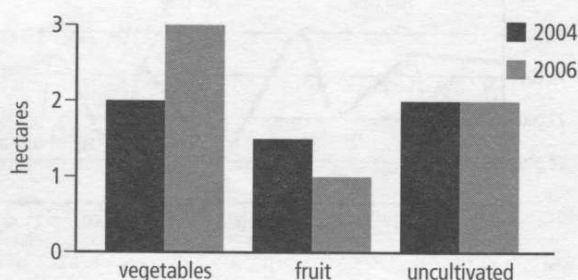
Writing

3 Summarising information

Grammar: using prepositions correctly

1 Complete the text about this chart using prepositions from the box.

at by from in over to to



Some changes took place, 1 a two-year period, in the way the farmland was used. While the area devoted to some crops increased 2 size, less land was used for others.

The area of land used to grow vegetables increased 3 two 4 three hectares. However, the area of land used for fruit cultivation fell 5 half a hectare 6 one hectare. The uncultivated area remained the same 7 two hectares.

Grammar: making predictions

👁 The Cambridge Learner Corpus tells us that IELTS candidates often make errors such as this:

It is predict the population will grow. ✗

Get it right!

We usually use verbs like *predict*, *forecast* and *estimate* in the passive when describing data:

It is **predicted/forecast/estimated** that the population will grow. ✓

Crime levels **are predicted/forecast/estimated** to rise. ✓

NB The past participle of *forecast* is irregular.

If you want to use the active voice, you must include a subject:

Experts / The chart(s) **predict(s)/forecast(s)/estimate(s)** that crime levels will rise.

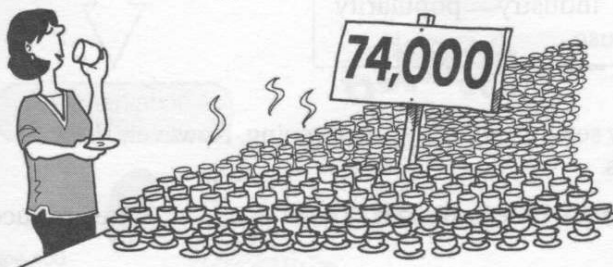
- 2 Make complete sentences using the words given. You may need to change the form of some words and add other words.

Example

Estimate / *people* / *world* / reach / 11 billion / 2200

It is estimated that the number of people in the world will reach 11 billion by the year 2200.

- 1 Forecast / *popularity* / *science subjects* / at university / fall / sharp / next ten years
- 2 Estimate / *pollution levels* / the 1900s / higher than / today
- 3 Forecast / *global population figures* / reach / 10 billion / 2050
- 4 Predict / *more children* / *adults* / obese / 2030
- 5 Predict / *number* / *hours* / *people spend* / watch TV / fall / while / amount time / using technology / rise
- 6 Estimate / *average person* / Britain / consume / 74,802 cups of tea / in their lifetime



- 3 Rewrite each sentence in exercise 2, starting with the words in *italics*.

Example

The number of people in the world is estimated to reach 11 billion by the year 2200.

Grammar: forming complex sentences

You need to use some complex sentences to have a chance of scoring Band 5 or above for Grammar.

Sometimes you can join two simple sentences together to make a complex sentence by using an *-ing* form.

You can often do this when adding more information about a trend or when describing trends that hit a low, reach a peak or stabilise:

*The number of households rose in Canada, **reaching** 11.8 million in 2004.*

NB Remember to put a comma before the *-ing* clause.

- 4 Join these sentence pairs together to make one complex sentence. First, underline the verb that will change to the *-ing* form.

Example

In 2005, crime levels rose again. They reached a peak of 225 cases per week.

In 2005, crime levels rose again, reaching a peak of 225 cases per week.

- 1 Between 2005 and 2006 the amount of rainfall decreased. It hit a low of 2mm per month in the summer of 2006.
- 2 Standards in hospitals rose in the 1960s. They showed a 20% improvement over the previous decade.
- 3 The average number of hours children spend on computers is predicted to increase over the next five years. It will reach a peak of ten hours a day.
- 4 Sales figures for 2007 fluctuated. They were high at the beginning of the year and low at the end.