**Vocabulary to describe graphs**

**Introducing the graph**

The graph/table/pie chart/bar chart/diagram ...

* gives information about/on ...
* provides information about/on ...
* shows ...
* illustrates ...
* compares ...
* explains why ...
* describes ...
* draws the conclusion of (a survey) ...

**Example**: The pie charts provide information on the proportion of males and females working in the agricultural sector.

**Types of changes**

**Nouns**

a rise (of)

an increase (of)

a growth (of)

a peak (of)

a surge (of)

**Example**: a rise of prices

a fall (in)

a decrease (in)

a decline (in)

a dip (in)

**Example**: a fall in prices

a fluctuation (of)

a variation (in)

**Example**: a fluctuation of prices

**Verbs**

to rise

to increase

to surge

to grow

to peak

***Large rises:***

to rocket

to soar

to leap (->leapt)

to fall

to decrease

to decline

to dip

to dive

to plunge

***Large falls:***

to plummet

to fluctuate

to vary

Description of changes

**Adverbs**

sharply

suddenly

rapidly

abruptly

dramatically

significantly

considerably

markedly

wildly

**Example**: the prices rose sharply

slightly

gently

gradually

steadily

modestly

marginally

**Example**: the prices increased modestly

**Adjectives**

sharp

sudden

rapid

abrupt

dramatic

steep

significant

considerable

marked

substantial

spectacular

**Example**: there was a considerable growth

slight

gentle

gradual

steady

consistent

modest

marginal

**Example**: there was a gradual decline

Useful phrases

a small fraction, a small number, a small minority

a large portion, a significant majority

nearly a fifth, almost 10%, in region of 40%, more than a half, over a quarter, around two thirds, more or less three quarters, exactly one in ten, approximately a third

* List with phrases to describe charts
* The pie chart is about ...
* The bar chart deals with ...
* The line graph (clearly) shows ...
* The slices of the pie chart compare the ...
* The chart is divided into ... parts.
* It highlights ...
* ... has the largest (number of) ...
* ... has the second largest (number of) ...
* ... is as big as ...
* ... is twice as big as ...
* ... is bigger than ...
* more than ... per cent ...
* only one third ...
* less than half ...
* The number ... increases/goes up/grows by ...
* The number ... decreases/goes down/sinks by ...
* The number ... does not change/remains stable
* I was really surprised/shocked by the ...
* So we can say ...

Use of Tenses

Mind the correct use of tenses when describing a chart. If the charts deals with facts in the present (as in our example), use the Simple Present, if the facts are the past, then use the Simple Past. If there is a connection between the past and the present, use the Present Perfect.

**Useful graph language: Description**

The graph from (source) presents data on (title)…

The graph from (source) shows/ illustrates (title)…

If we look at this graph on (title) from (source) you can see…

The y axis (vertical) is… and the x axis (horizontal) is…

(Graph) These lines represent… (Bar) These Columns are…  (Pie) These segments are… (Table) These rows are…

**Useful graph language: Analysis**

*Overall summary: Overall, there is / has been… / Generally, there is…*

*What you can see is… / From the graph we can see…*

*I’d like to focus your attention on…*

*If you look at this…, you’ll see / notice / understand*

*A key significant area is … / Two key significant areas are…*

*An important point is… / Two important points I’d like to illustrate are…*

*What is interesting here is…*

*An interesting observation is…*

*An analysis of the graph illustrates…*

*Looking at ….*

**Useful graph language: Evaluation**

*This seems to suggest that…*

*This is possibly because of…*

*This is (clearly) due to…*

*One reason for this could be…*

*An evaluation of this data suggests / provides evidence for / highlights…*

*To provide evidence to my previous point the graph highlights…*

*Overall, this highlights the significance of…*

*Therefore, this provides evidence that…*

**Describing graphs: using analysis and evaluation**

The graph from (source) shows/ illustrates (title)…

The y-axis is… and the x-axis is…

Overall, GDP has remained… between…

*I’d like to focus your attention on two key significant areas.*

*(****Analysis****) The first one is ………. (explain data)*

*(****Evaluation****) This is/was possibly because of ….*

***(Analysis****) The second one is ……. (explain data)*

*(****Evaluation****) This is / was clearly due to …………*

*Overall, this graph highlights the evidence that…*

*A future prediction is that……*

<https://preply.com/en/blog/charts-graphs-and-diagrams-in-the-presentation/>

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing/b1-writing/describing-charts>

[https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/ieHow to Describe an IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 Graphlts-academic-writing-task-1.html](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/ielts-academic-writing-task-1.html)