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# 4.5 Pie Charts: Creation, Labels & Exploding Slices

## Creating a pie chart

1. Arrange data with categories and corresponding values in adjacent columns.
2. Select the data.
3. Go to **Insert > Pie Chart** and choose a subtype (2‑D pie, 3‑D pie, Doughnut, Pie of Pie, Bar of Pie). The chart displays the proportional contribution of each category【403903105750544†L296-L343】.

## Adding labels

* **Data labels** – Add labels showing percentages or values by selecting the chart and choosing **Chart Elements > Data Labels**.
* **Legend** – Helps identify categories. Adjust its position for readability.

## Exploding slices

To emphasise a particular slice:

1. Click the slice to select it.
2. Drag it slightly away from the centre. Alternatively, use the **Format Data Series** pane and adjust the **Point Explosion** slider【403903105750544†L296-L343】.

You can explode all slices simultaneously by selecting the entire pie and dragging outward.

## Rotating the chart

Change the starting angle of the first slice via **Format Data Series > Series Options > Angle of first slice**【403903105750544†L345-L360】. This helps reposition slices.

## Example

Create a pie chart of market share for five companies. Add percentage labels and explode the largest slice to highlight the market leader. Rotate the chart so the leader appears at the top.

## Summary

Pie charts display parts of a whole. Labelling and exploding slices draw attention to specific categories, while rotation changes orientation【403903105750544†L296-L343】【403903105750544†L345-L360】.

## Reflection questions

1. When should a pie chart be used instead of a bar chart?
2. How do you emphasise a single slice in a pie chart?
3. Why might you rotate a pie chart?

## References