How to spot a misleading graph

Let's learn some vocabulary

Put the words and phrases below in the correct column.

stabilize   rocket   plummet   reach a peak   fluctuate
increase   decrease   drop   grow   fall   rise
level off   climb   decline   plunge   recover

GO UP	GO DOWN
rocket	plummet
reach a peak	decrease
increase	drop
grow	fall
rise	decline
climb	plunge
recover	

Study the table and rewrite the sentences below.

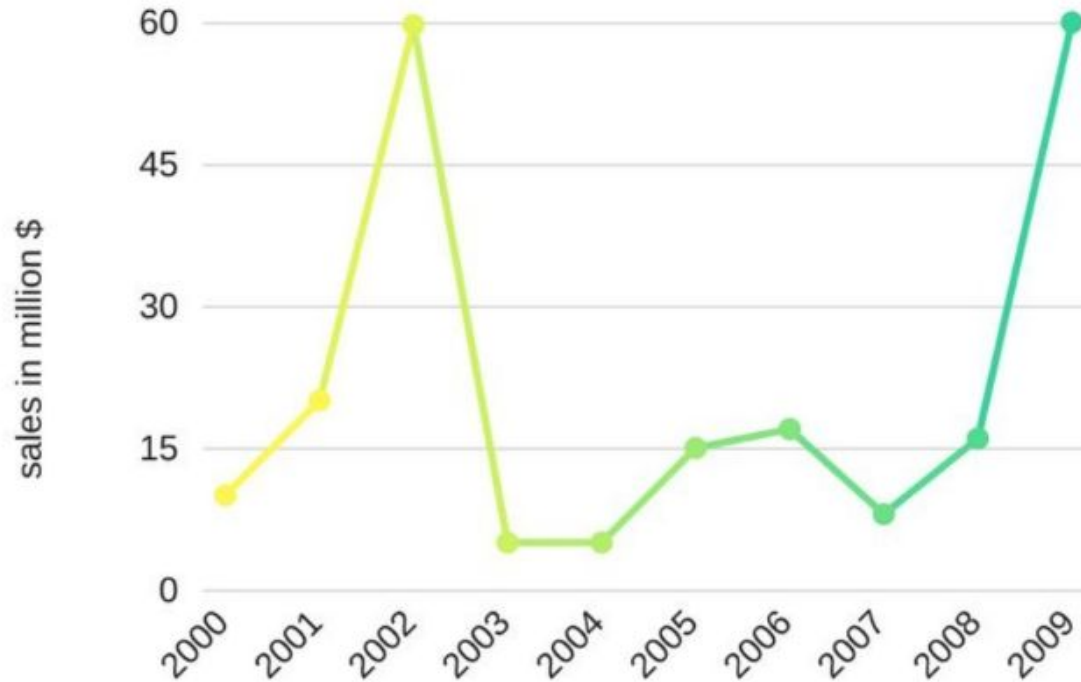| NOUNS	VERBS
There was an increase **in sales.** There was a decrease **of 20%.**	Sales increased **by 20%.**
There was a **sharp** increase.	Sales increased **sharply.**

a. Last year, the sales of mobile phones went up dramatically.
   Last year, there was …….

b. As you can see, there was a fall in the price of oil last quarter.
   As you can see, the price of oil …….

c. In 2002, we observed a rise in our production of 15%.
   In 2002, our production …….

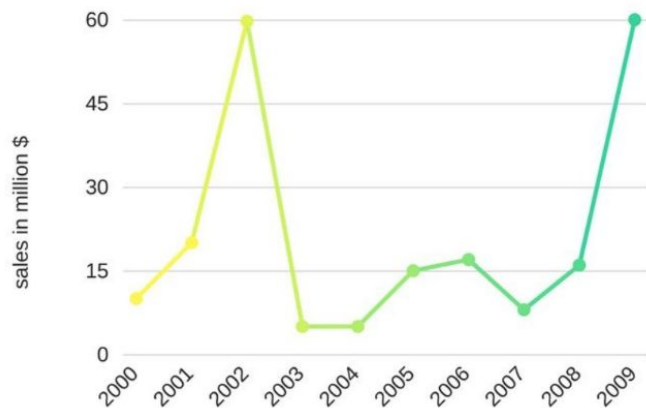d. There was a slight drop in profits.
   Our profits …….

Let's check the answers.

NOUNS	VERBS
There was an increase **in sales.** There was a decrease **of 20%.**	Sales increased **by 20%.**
There was a **sharp** increase.	Sales increased **sharply.**

a. Last year, the sales of mobile phones went up dramatically.
    Last year, there was a dramatic increase in mobile phones sales.
b. As you can see, there was a fall in the price of oil last quarter.
    As you can see, the price of oil fell last quarter.
c. In 2002, we observed a rise in our production of 15%.
    In 2002, our production rose by 15%.
d. There was a slight drop in profits.
    Our profits dropped slightly.

Write a description for the graph showing the sales (in million $) of ABC Ltd company.

Compare your description to this suggested answer.

The sales in 2000 were low but started to grow in 2001, reaching a peak in 2002 before plummeting in 2003. The sales stabilized during the next few years before recovering in 2008 and rocketing to the second peak in 2009.

In a moment, you'll watch a presentation by Lea Gaslowitz titled:

How to spot a misleading graph

Why do you think a graph could be misleading?

Watch the video and check your opinion.