

Writing Task-1

Graph

Academic IELTS Writing Task 1 question requires you to use several vocabularies to present the data given in a pie/ bar/ line/ mixed graph or to describe a process or a flow chart. Being able to use appropriate vocabularies, presenting the main trend, comparing & contrasting data and presenting the logical flow of the graph ensure a high band score in your Academic IELTS writing task 1.

To demonstrate that you have a **great lexical resource**, you need to:

- » Use correct synonyms in your writing.
- » Use a range of vocabulary.
- » Do not repeat words and phrases from the exam question unless there is no alternative.
- » Use some less common vocabulary.
- » Do not use the same word more than once/twice.
- » Use precise and accurate words in a sentence.

Vocabulary for Introduction Part

Starting	Presentation Type	Verb	Description
The/ the given / the supplied / the presented / the shown / the provided	diagram / table / figure / illustration / graph / chart / flow chart / picture/ presentation/ pie chart / bar graph/ column graph / line graph / table data/ data / information / pictorial/ process diagram/ map/ pie chart and table/ bar graph and pie chart ...	shows / represents / depicts / enumerates / illustrates / presents/ gives / provides / delineates/ outlines/ describes / expresses/ denotes/ compares/ shows/ indicates / figures / gives data on / gives information on/ presents information about/ shows data about/ demonstrates/ summarizes...	the comparison of... the differences... the changes... the number of... information on... data on... the proportion of... the amount of... information on... data about... comparative data... the trend of... the percentages of... the ratio of...

Examples:

1. The diagram shows employment rates among adults in four European countries from 1925 to 1985.
2. The given pie charts represent the proportion of male and female employees in 6 broad categories, dividing into manual and non-manual occupations in Australia, between 2010 and 2015.
3. The chart gives information about consumer expenditures on six products in four countries namely Germany, Italy, Britain and France.
4. The supplied bar graph compares the number of male and female graduates in three developing countries while the table data presents the overall literacy rate in these countries.
5. The bar graph and the table data depict the water consumption in different sectors in five regions.
6. The bar graph enumerates the money spent on different research projects while the column graph demonstrates the fund sources over a decade, commencing from 1981.
7. The line graph delineates the proportion of male and female employees in three different sectors in Australia between 2010 and 2015.

Vocabulary for the Overview Part:

1. In general...
2. In common...
3. A glance at the graph(s) reveals that...
4. Overall...
5. It is obvious...
6. As it is observed...
7. As a general trend...
8. As can be seen...
9. As an overall trend
10. As it is presented...
11. It can be clearly seen that...
12. At a first glance...
13. It is clear,
14. It is clear that...

Examples:

1. In general, the employment opportunities increased till 1970 and then declined throughout the next decade.
2. As it is observed, the figures for imprisonment in the five mentioned countries show no overall pattern, rather it shows the considerable fluctuations from country to country.
3. Overall, the leisure hours enjoyed by males, regardless of their employment status, was much higher than that of women.
4. As can be seen, the highest number of passengers used the London Underground station at 8:00 in the morning and at 6:00 in the evening.
5. As an overall trend, the number of crimes reported increased fairly rapidly until the mid-seventies, remained constant for five years and finally, dropped to 20 cases a week after 1982.
6. At a first glance, it is clear that more percentages of native university pupils violated regulations and rules than the foreign students did during this period.

Vocabulary to Start the Report Body:

Just after you finish writing your Overview, you are expected to start a new paragraph to describe the main features of the diagrams. This second paragraph is called the 'Body Paragraph / Report Body'. You can have a single body paragraph/ report body or up to 3, (not more than 3 in any case) depending on the number of graphs provided in the question and the type of these graphs. There are certain phrases you can use to start your body paragraph and the following is a list of such phrases ---

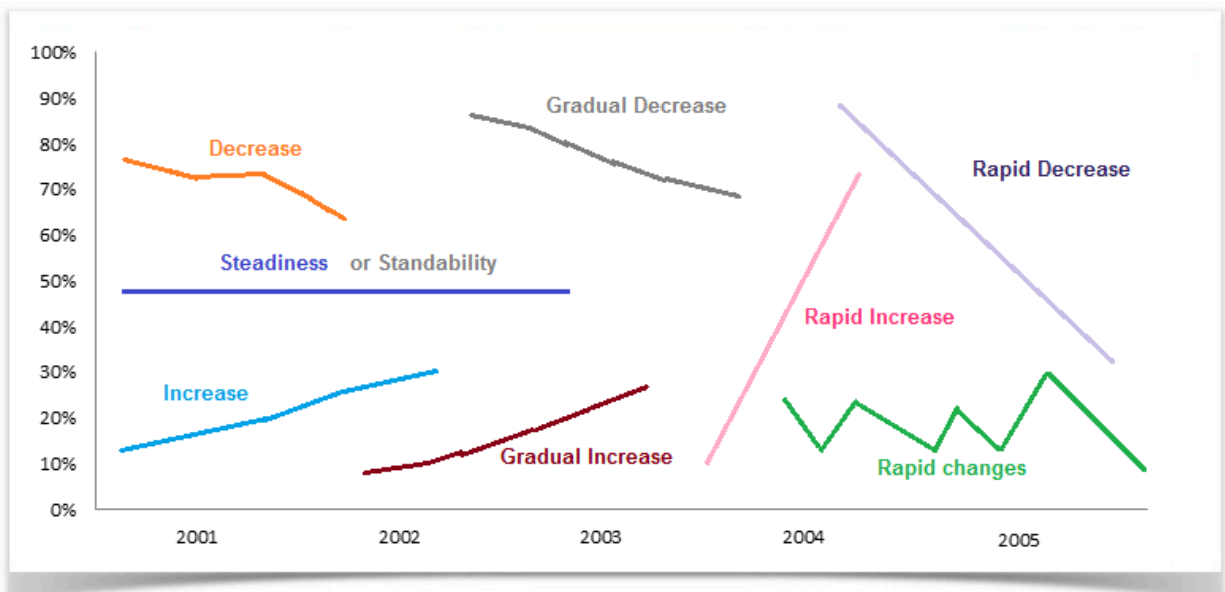
1. As it is presented in the diagram(s)/ graph(s)/ pie chart(s)/ table...
2. As (it is) shown in the illustration...
3. As can be seen in the...
4. As the diagrams suggest...
5. According to the...
6. It could be noticed that...
7. Getting back to the details...
8. Now, turning to the details...
9. The table data clearly shows that...
10. The diagram reveals that...
11. The data suggest that...
12. The graph gives the figure...
13. It can be clearly observed that...
14. It is apparently seen that...
15. It is conspicuous that...
16. It is explicitly observed that...
17. It is obvious...
18. It is clear from the data...
19. It is crystal clear/ lucid that...

Vocabulary to show the changes:

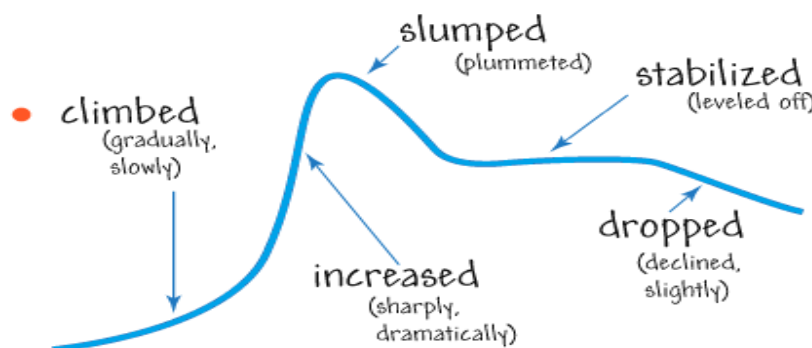
Trends	Verb Forms	Noun Forms
Increase	rise / increase / go up / uplift / rocket(ed) / climb / upsurge / soar/ shot up/ improve/ jump/ leap/ move upward/ skyrocket/ soar/ surge.	a rise / an increase / an upward trend / a growth / a leap / a jump / an improvement/ a climb
Decrease	fall / decrease / decline / plummet / plunge / drop / reduce / collapse / deteriorate/ dip / dive / go down / take a nosedive / slum / slide / go into free-fall.	a fall / a decrease / a reduction / a downward trends /a downward tendency / a decline/ a drop / a slide / a collapse / a downfall
Steadiness	unchanged / level out / remain constant / remain steady / plateau / remain the same / remain stable / remain static	a steadiness/ a plateau / a stability/ a static
Gradual Increase	-	an upward trend / an upward tendency / a ceiling trend
Gradual Decrease	-	a downward trend / a downward tendency / a descending trend
Standability/ Flat	level(ed) off / remain(ed) constant / remain(ed) unchanged / remain(ed) stable / prevail(ed) consistency / plateaued / reach(ed) a plateau / stay(ed) uniform /immutable / level(ed) out/ stabilize/ remain(ed) the same	No change, a flat, a plateau.

Examples:

1. The overall sale of the company increased by 20% at the end of the year.
2. The expenditure of the office remained constant for the last 6 months but the profit rose by almost 25%.
3. There was a 15% drop in the ratio of student enrollment at this University.
4. The population of the country remained almost the same as it was 2 years ago.
5. The population of these two cities increased significantly in the last two decades and it is expected that it will remain stable during the next 5 years.



- **Increase** = rise / go up / uplift / rocketed / climb / upsurge / soar.



Types of Changes/ Differences and Vocabulary to present them:

Great change / Huge difference:

Adjectives	Adverbs
Overwhelming	Overwhelmingly
Substantial	Substantially
Enormous	Enormously

Big change / Big difference:

Adjectives	Adverbs
Significant	Significantly
Considerable	Considerably

Medium change / Moderate difference:

Adjectives	Adverbs
Somewhat	Somewhat
Moderate	Moderately

Minor change / Small difference:

Adjectives	Adverbs
Fractional	Fractionally
Marginal	Marginally
Slight	Slightly

Dates, Months & Years related vocabulary and grammar:

Examples:

- » From 1990 to 2000, Commencing from 1980, Between 1995 and 2005, After 2012.
- » By 1995, In 1998, In February, Over the period, During the period, During 2011.
- » In the first half of the year, For the first quarter, The last quarter of the year, During the first decade.
- » In the 80s, In the 1980s, During the next 6 months, In the mid-70s, Next 10 years, Previous year, Next year, Between 1980 - 1990.

- » Within a time span of ten years, within five years.
- » Next month, Next quarter, Next year, Previous month, Previous year.
- » Since, Then, From.

Percentage, Portion and Numbers:

Percentages:

10% increase, 25 percent decrease, increased by 15%, dropped by 10 per cent, fall at 50%, reached to 75%, tripled, doubled, one-fourth, three-quarters, half, double fold, treble, 5 times higher, 3 times lower, declined to about 49%, stood exactly at 43%.

Fractions:

4% = A tiny fraction.

24% = Almost a quarter.

25% Exactly a quarter.

26% = Roughly one quarter.

32% Nearly one-third, nearly a third.

49% = Around a half, just under a half.

50% Exactly a half.

51% = Just over a half.

73% = Nearly three quarters.

77% = Approximately three quarter, more than three-quarter.

79% = Well over three quarters.

Proportions:

2% = A tiny portion, a very small proportion.

4% = An insignificant minority, an insignificant proportion.

16% = A small minority, a small portion.

70% = A large proportion.

72% = A significant majority, A significant proportion. 89% = A very large proportion.

89% = A very large proportion.

Words/ Phrases of Approximation - Vocabulary:

- » Approximately
- » Nearly
- » Roughly
- » Almost
- » About
- » Around
- » More or less

- » Just over
- » Just under
- » Just around
- » Just about
- » Just below
- » A little more than
- » A little less than.

Vocabulary to represent the highest and lowest points in graphs:

Type	Verb	Noun
Highest Point	peaked / culminated / climaxed / reach the peak / hit the peak / touch the highest point / reach the vertex/ reach the apex	a (/the) peak / a (/the) pinnacle / a (/the) vertex / the highest point/ an (/the) apex / a (/the) summit, a (/the) top, a (/the) pinnacle, a (/the) acme, a (/the) zenith
Lowest Point	touch the lowest point / get the lowest point / reached the nadir	the lowest point / the lowest mark / bottommost point / rock bottom point/ bottommost mark / nadir/ the all-time low/ the lowest level/ the bottom/ rock-bottom

Examples:

1. The price of the oil reached a peak amounting \$20 in February and again touched the lowest point amounting only \$10 in July.
2. Student enrollment in foreign Universities and Colleges increased dramatically hitting a peak of over 20 thousand in 2004.
3. The highest number of books was sold in July while it was lowest in December.
4. The oil price reached a peak in 2003 while it was lowest in 2006.
5. The selling volume of the DVD hit the peak with 2 million copies sold in a month but after just three months it reached the bottom with only 20 thousand sold in a month.

Vocabulary to present Linkers:

1. However...
2. On the other hand...
3. Similarly...
4. On the contrary...
5. Meanwhile...
6. In contrast...
7. By comparison...

Use the following vocabularies if both subjects are the same/ identical:

- ... Identical to/ Identical with ...
- ... Equal to with ...
- ... Exactly the same ...
- ... The same as ...
- ... Precisely the same ...
- ... Absolutely the same ...
- ... just the same as ...

Use the following vocabularies if both subjects are not identical but similar:

- ... Almost the same as ...
- ... Nearly the same as ...
- ... Practically the same as ...
- ... Almost identical/ similar ...
- ... About the same as ...

Way to show that something/a trend is just the reverse/opposite:

- » The reverse is the case...
- » It is quite the opposite/ reverse...

WORDS

Everybody uses some common vocabularies to describe a diagram and to write a report. For instance, there would hardly be anyone who does not use the words 'increase, decrease, fall, higher, fluctuate, climb, decline, quickly increase, sharply decrease, and those are really obvious words used by most IELTS candidates. If you too use these overused words and phrases, you would not be able to give an impression that your range of vocabulary is stronger and richer than others.

Some words that can be used to prove you have rich vocabulary:

- » Illustration: can replace - "diagram, chart."
- » As the diagrams suggest: can replace - "As can be seen, According to the diagrams."
- » Illustrate: can replace - "describe, show, present data on."
- » Trifling: can replace - "small, insignificant."
- » Delineate: can replace - "show, present, describe."
- » From this graph, it is quite evident that: can replace - "In conclusion, In summary, In general."
- » The most possible ground: can replace - "the most common reason."
- » Elaborate: can replace - "describe, explain."
- » Nadir: can replace - "the lowest point."
- » Apex/ Vertex: can replace - "the highest point."
- » Soared: can replace - "sharply increased."
- » Skyrocketed: can replace - "very quickly increased."
- » Frantically: can replace - "very quickly, very rapidly."
- » Slumped: can replace - "quickly dropped."
- » Plummeted: can replace - "quickly dropped."
- » Surged: can replace - "went up, climbed, increased."
- » Deteriorate: can replace - "fall."
- » Dip: can replace - "fall, decline."
- » Dive: can replace - "fall, drop."
- » Go into free-fall: can replace - "fall, drop, decline, decrease."
- » Plummet, plunge, slum: can replace - "fall, drop, decline."
- » Take a nosedive: can replace - "reduce, drop, fall, decline."
- » Slide: can replace - "drop, fall."
- » Decade: can replace - "ten years."
- » Projected: can replace - "predicted, forecasted, estimated."
- » Overwhelmingly: can replace - "greatly, significantly."
- » Hardly: can replace - "barely, merely,"
- » At the onset it is clear: can replace - "As can be seen from the graph."
- » Indicate: can replace - "point out."
- » All in all: can replace - "In summary, in conclusion."
- » Obtain: can replace - "get."
- » Commence: can replace - "start".
- » In the interim: can replace - "in the meantime."

- » Correct: can replace - "right".
- » Inexpensive: can replace - "cheap."
- » Depict: can replace - "show."
- » Plateaued: can replace - "remained the same."
- » Oscillate/ Vacillate/ Palpitate: can replace - "fluctuate."
- » Declivity: can replace - "drop, fall, decrease".
- » Acclivity: can replace - "An upward slope, an upward trend, increase."
- » A steep fall: can replace - "A quick fall".

Vocabulary to ensure a high band score in IELTS Graph writing:

Plateau

Meaning: Reach a state of little or no change after a period of activity or progress, levelled out.

Example: The share price of the ACME company have plateaued out.

Dip

Meaning: Submerge, lower plunge, sink.

Example: The employee satisfaction score then dipped in 2005 and remained at this level for the next three years.

Slump

Meaning: Decrease, decline, deteriorate.

Example: The number of passengers then slumped and reached only 2500 compared to four thousand in the previous year.

Steep

Meaning: Sheer, sharp, abrupt, perpendicular.

Example: The steep decline of heavy drinkers contributed to the enhanced life expectancy in this country.

Substantial

Meaning: Notable, considerable, significant, marked

Example: A substantial number of these diploma holders did not finish their tertiary education.

Dramatic

Meaning: Significant, notable, noteworthy, remarkable, considerable, substantial.

Example: The dramatic rise in car use has polluted the air.

Gradual

Meaning: Step by step, slow but continuous, uniform, successive, progressive, steady, regular, even, consistent.

Example: The participation of women in these sectors gradually improved and in 2015, more than 38% of women were employed in these job sectors.

Decline

Meaning: Reduce, decrease, plummet, plunge, slump, shrink, fall off, lessen.

Example: Investment in clean energy declined in the third world countries in 2005 while it actually doubled in most of the first world countries.

An upward trend

Meaning: The tendency of being higher, something that goes upward.

Example: An upward trend in the number of club members was visible from 2005 to 2007 after which it actually dropped.

Respectively

Meaning: Consecutively, sequentially.

Example: Car theft cases in Denmark, Sweden, UK and Japan were respectively 240, 210, 354 and 189 in January 2018.

Consecutively

Meaning: Sequentially, progressively.

Example: While the daily fast food consumption per person in the UK was 50 grams, it was 61, 32 and 25 grams in the USA, Sweden and China consecutively.

Apex

Meaning: The highest point, peak, vertex, pinnacle, summit, top.

Example: The price then increased noticeably and reached the apex in 2017.

Acclivity

Meaning: Ascent, climb, rise.

Example: The activity of car ownership in Europe further developed and reached 57% in 2011.

Declivity

Meaning: A downward slope, decline, decrease.

Example: The declivity in the number of female members in 2011 was almost double than that of the previous year.

Remained stable

Meaning: Remained constant, did not change.

Example: The ratio of highly skilled professionals in the former country increased significantly but remained stable in the latter one.

Plummet

Meaning: Plunge, fall, decline, slump, nosedive, drop, decrease.

Example: The ratio of unemployed youth, who have vocational education, plummeted in 2005 than that of two years earlier.

Prevalent

Meaning: Common, general, usual, prevailing, widespread, endemic, rampant.

Example: The prevalence of the trend could be better understood if we compare the data with that of the last twenty years.

Stood at

Meaning: To remain stable/ intact, to come to a stop.

Example: The old hospital stood at the same position as it was five decades earlier but the free space in front of it was converted to a car parking area.

Enumerate

Meaning: Identify, itemize, list, summarize, recite, specify, quote, relate.

Example: The illustration enumerates how the Australian Bureau of Meteorology collects up-to-the-minute information on the weather.

Radically

Meaning: Completely, hurriedly, abruptly.

Example: Technological advancement has radically changed the way employees used to work in their offices.

Positive development

Meaning: Improvement, progress, stay forward, increase, grow, rise.

Example: The increasing number of female executives in the company is considered a positive development.

Subsequent

Meaning: Following, next, successive, succeeding.

Example: Despite a hike at the beginning of the year, the oil price steadily declined in the subsequent months until June 2017.

Commence

Meaning: Start, begin, set in motion, open, initiate, inaugurate.

Example: The construction of the road was commenced at the beginning of 2001 and ended in 2003.

Plunge

Meaning: Slump, plummet, shrink, fall off, decline, decrease, drop, reduce.

Example: Employers' contribution to the fee for skill development courses has plunged to a great extent in the last decade, as the graph suggests.

Surge

Meaning: Increase, went higher, jump.

Example: Duration of watching TV as a leisure activity surged among the elder people in Australia after 1998.

To dive

Meaning: Fall, descent, plummet, plunge, nosedive, drop.

Example: Consumption of word resources in some Asian countries, on the contrary, has dived after 2014.

Abrupt

Meaning: Swift, sudden, instantaneous, hurried, startling, unanticipated, unexpected, rapid, speedy.

Example: The abrupt rise of the population in the early 21st century is contrasting to that of the beginning of the 18th century, as the data suggests.

Relative

Meaning: Correlative, corresponding, parallel, reciprocal.

Example: Academic performance and professional efficiency are somewhat relative to each other despite the presence of many other variables, according to the survey outcome.

Modest

Meaning: Tolerable, adequate, moderate, fair, satisfactory, acceptable.

Example: The wheat export then witnessed a modest decline and it affected the revenue earned in 2015.

Variation

Meaning: Disparity, inequality, dissimilarity, difference, variety, diversification.

Example: It can be inferred from the given data that variations in the pH values are sometimes detrimental.

Elucidate

Meaning: Explain, make clear, clarify, throw/shed light on, explicate, annotate.

Example: The line chart elucidates how much waste was recycled in the UK between 1990 and 2015.

Unravel

Meaning: Untangle, clear up, disentangle, explain, straighten out, separate out.

Example: The data unravel the fact that the crime rate increases in the later decades despite some stringent initiatives from the law enforcers.