

Interpreting a graph

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Upper-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3802X

LANGUAGE
English

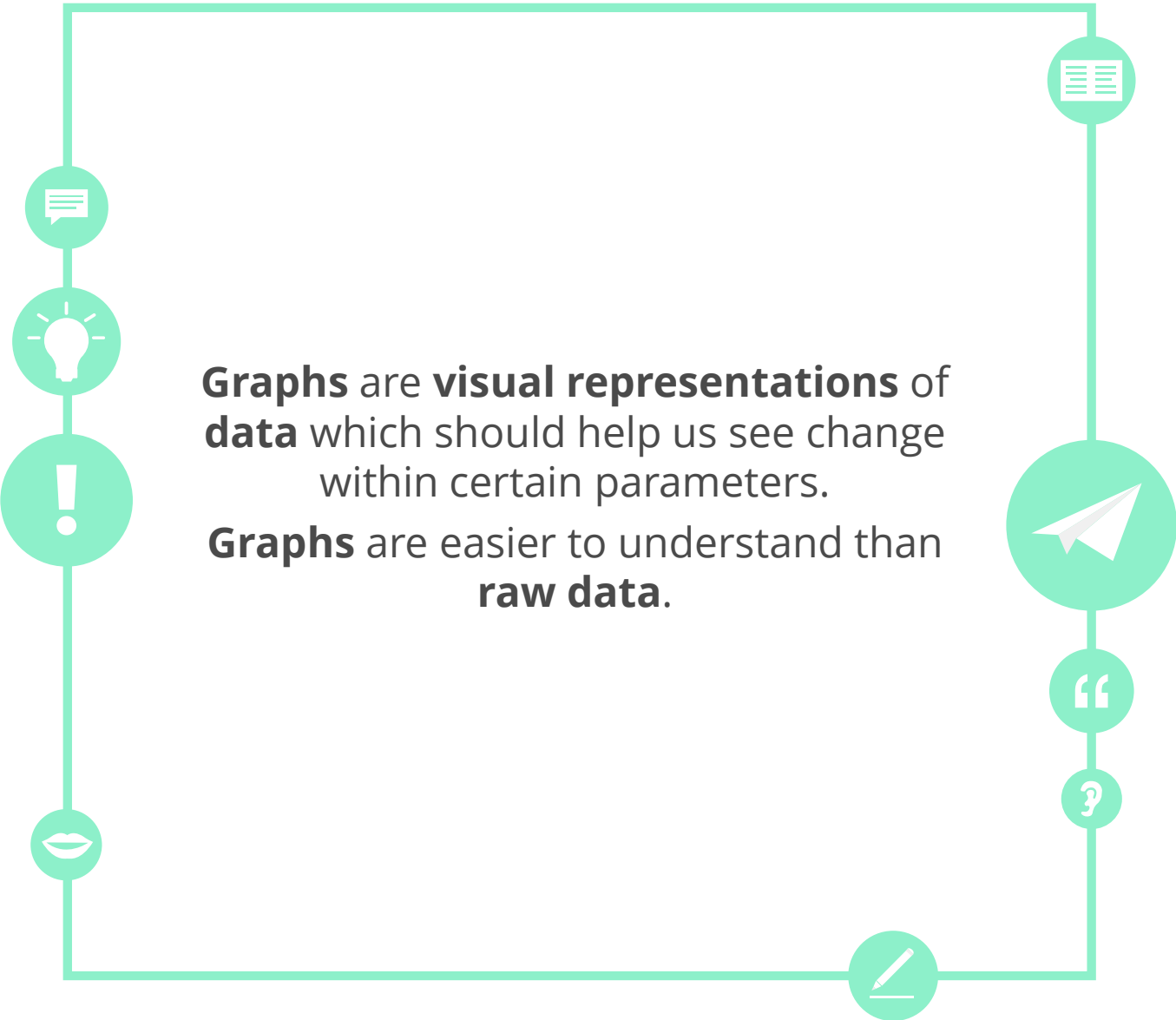




Goals

- Can understand new phrases and terminology of comparison to describe data
- Can use new knowledge and vocabulary to draw and present conclusions based on a graph





Graphs are **visual representations** of **data** which should help us see change within certain parameters.

Graphs are easier to understand than **raw data**.



Graphs and charts

In which situations do you normally see graphs and charts?

What do they help to explain?



Graphs and charts at work

Do you use graphs and charts at work? Do you find they help you to understand figures? Do you find it easy to explain graphs and charts to others?





Describing graphs

Below are some **verbs** that you can use to describe **bar graphs** and **line graphs**. There are generally three directions these graphs can take, which are covered below.

Going up	Going down	No/little change
rise	fall	stay steady
increase	decrease	remain constant
go up	go down	plateau
grow	drop	stabilise
surge	decline	level off



Describing graphs

Here are some more verbs to describe **movement** in graphs, or **hitting a low point**.

Ups and downs	Low points
fluctuate	reach a low
undulate	bottom out
zig-zag	reach an all-time low



Adjectives and adverbs

Below are some **adjectives** and **adverbs** to describe **large** or **unexpected changes** in a **bar** or **line graph**.

Adjective	Example	Adverb	Example
Significant	A significant decrease	Significantly	Decreased significantly
Sharp	A sharp rise	Sharply	Rose sharply
Dramatic	A dramatic increase	Dramatically	Increased dramatically
Sudden	A sudden drop	Suddenly	Dropped suddenly



More adjectives and adverbs

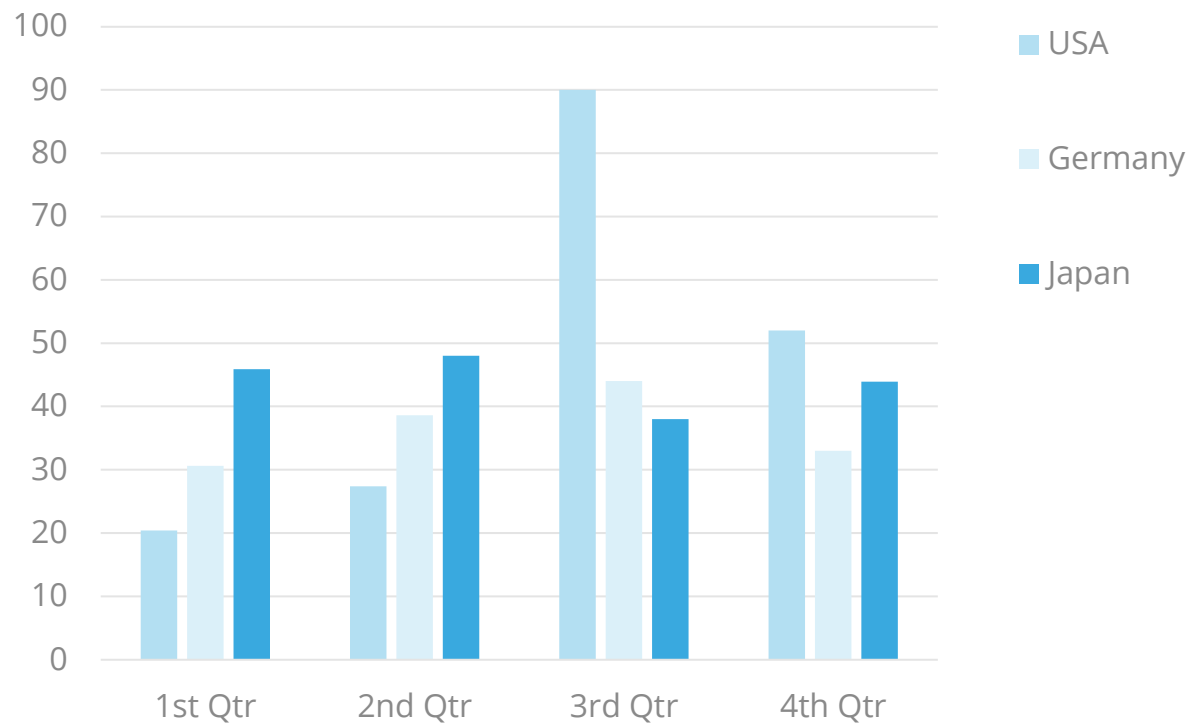
Below are some adjectives and adverbs to describe **small** or **gradual changes** in **bar** and **line graphs**.

Adjective	Example	Adverb	Example
Slight	A slight decline	Slightly	Declined slightly
Gradual	A gradual increase	Gradually	Gradually increased
Gentle	A gentle drop	Gently	Gently dropped
Modest	A modest rise	Modestly	Rose modestly



Sales figures: bar chart

This graph shows the sales figures in 1000s of an e-book company in 3 different countries.





Read through this description of the sales figures for Japan

Sales in Japan **remained fairly constant** over the four quarters, generally hovering between 40 and 50,000 per quarter. Most notable is the **slight drop** in the third quarter, the only time sales **went below** 40,000 per quarter.



Describe the graph

Now, describe what happened with sales in the USA and Germany over the four quarters. Don't forget to use adjectives and adverbs to describe the graph!



a dramatic increase

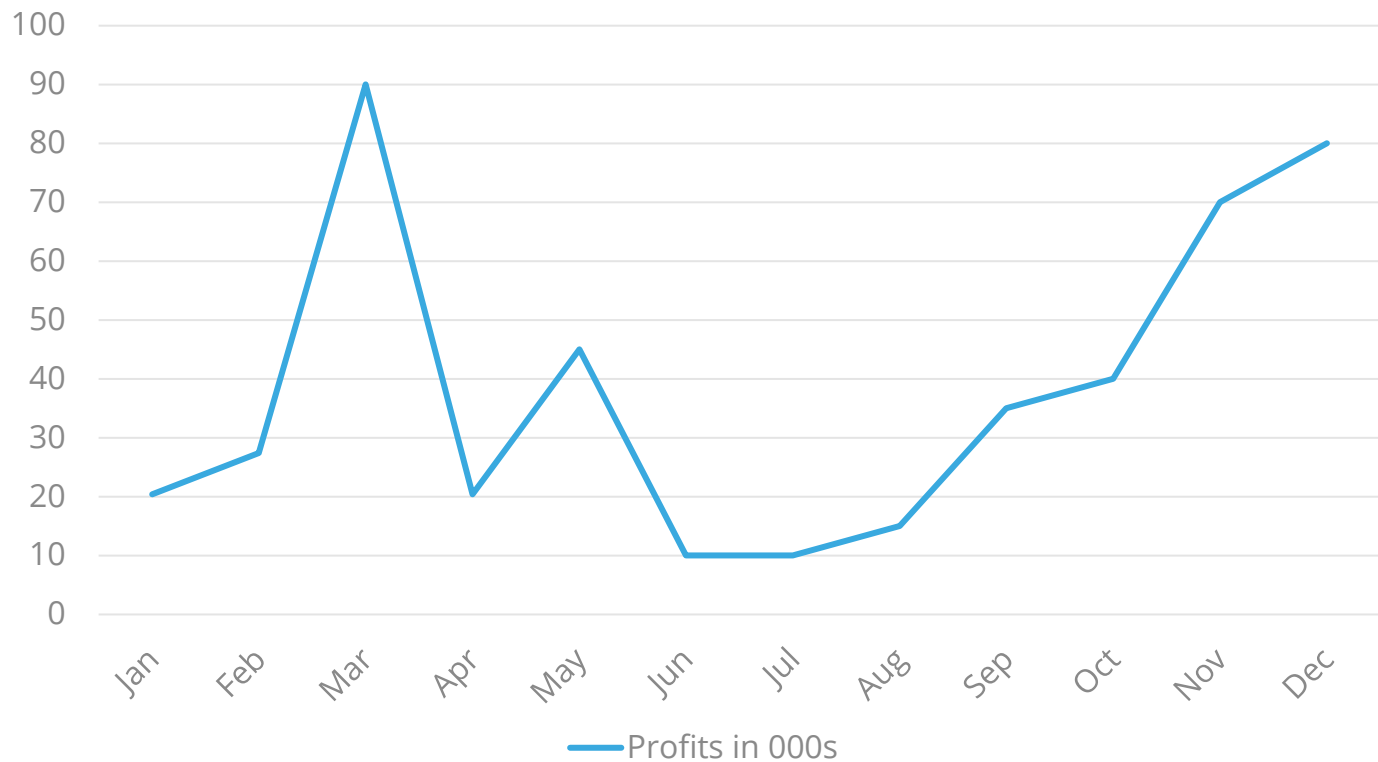
increased
steadily

a sharp drop



Profit

This line graph shows a company's profits over the course of a year. Look at it for a minute and try to analyse it.





Describe the line graph

How did you feel describing the previous line graph? Look at the phrases below to help you give a description in detail.



plateau

bottom out

fluctuate

rise and fall

Describing a pie chart

Describing a **pie chart** relies more on **interpreting figures** rather than talking about rises and falls as in line and bar graphs.



17% of people prefer using a smart phone to sending emails.



83,000 of total sales were made in China.



Describing differences

When describing a **pie chart**, you can describe differences within it using the following phrases.

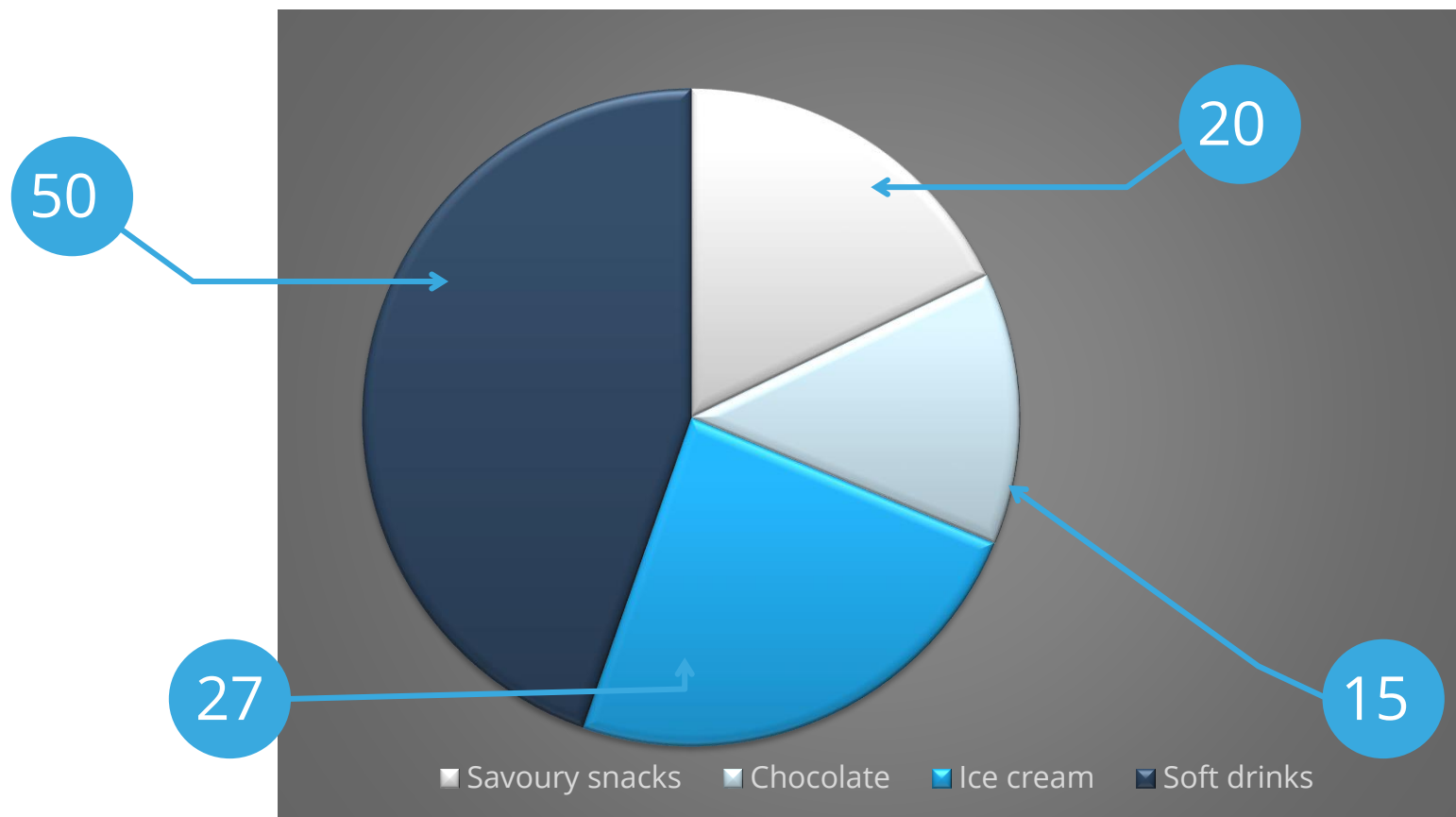
Big differences	Small differences
A huge variation	Closely followed by
Far and away	Little difference
A vast difference	Almost no difference





Pie chart

This pie chart shows the sales in 1000s of different types of food from a snack stand for the months of June, July and August.





Pie chart

Read through this description of the pie chart:

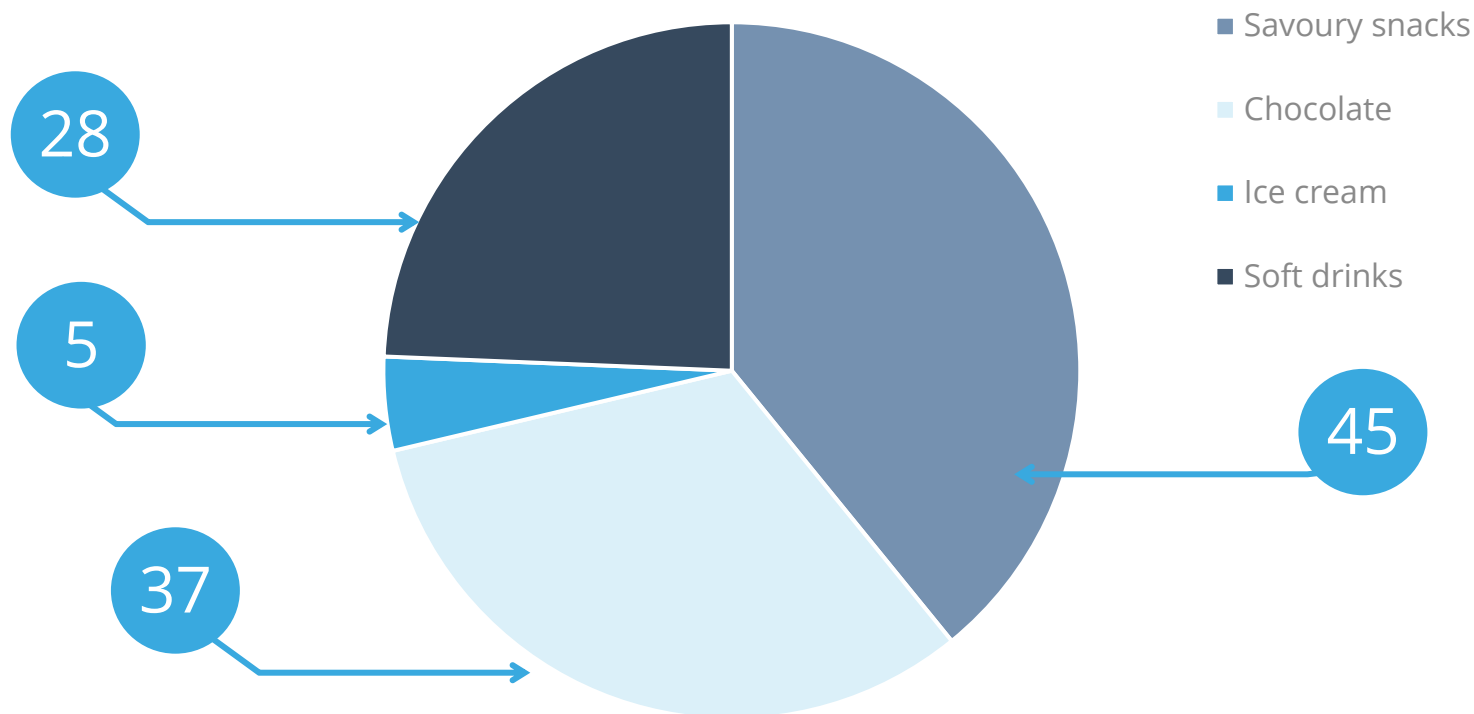
From the pie chart it is easy to see that in the months of June, July and August, soft drinks are the biggest seller, selling 50,000 units. They are followed by ice cream at 27,000 units, and closely after that are savoury snacks with 20,000 unit sales. The least popular purchase in those months is chocolate, with only 15,000 units bought.





Pie chart

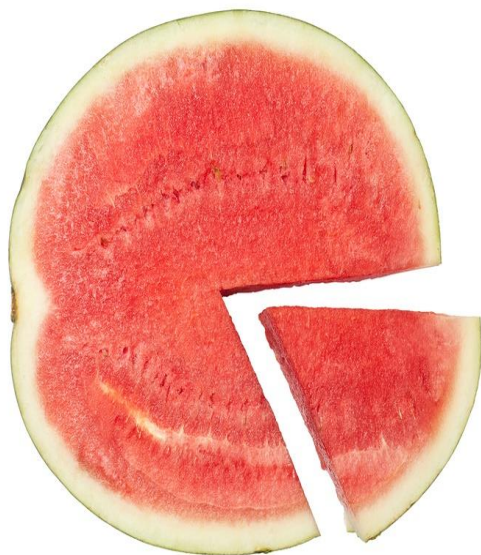
This pie chart shows the sales in 1000s of different types of food from the same snack stand for the months of September, October and November.





Describe the pie chart

Describe the pie chart on the previous page, using the phrases below to help you.



A vast difference

No difference

Almost the same



Comparing results

As well as simply describing graphs and charts, you should know how to **compare the results** and **draw conclusions** from them. Below are some phrases for making **comparisons** and **contrasts**.

Comparisons	Contrasts
the figures follow a similar trajectory...	the figures diverge...
...is similar to...	whereas/while
...are alike	nevertheless/however
likewise	conversely
bigger/more impressive	in contrast



Drawing conclusions

Here are some phrases to use to **draw conclusions** from **graphs** and **charts**:

Because of the decrease, I suggest...

The steep decline shows...

Owing to the rise, we can invest...

These steady increases show promise...

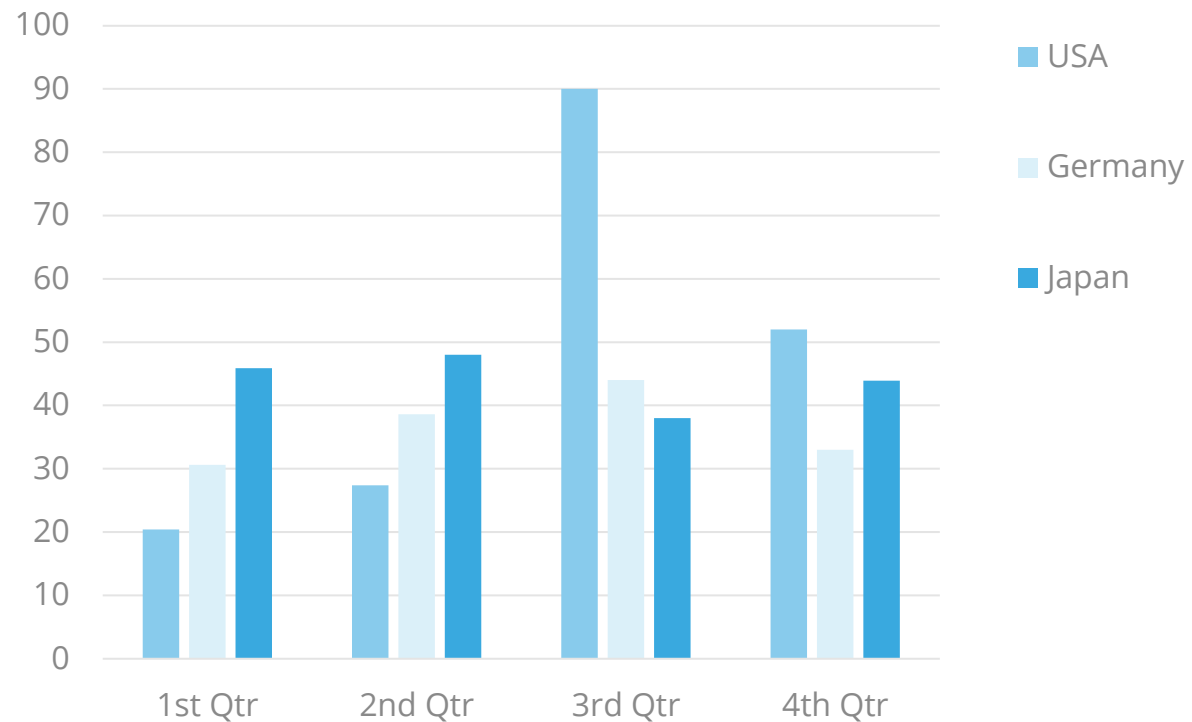
Looking at the fluctuations, it is safe to say...





Sales figures: bar chart

Look again at the graph showing the sales figures in 000s of an e-book company in 3 different countries .





Read the text

Read through the text comparing sales figures on the bar chart.

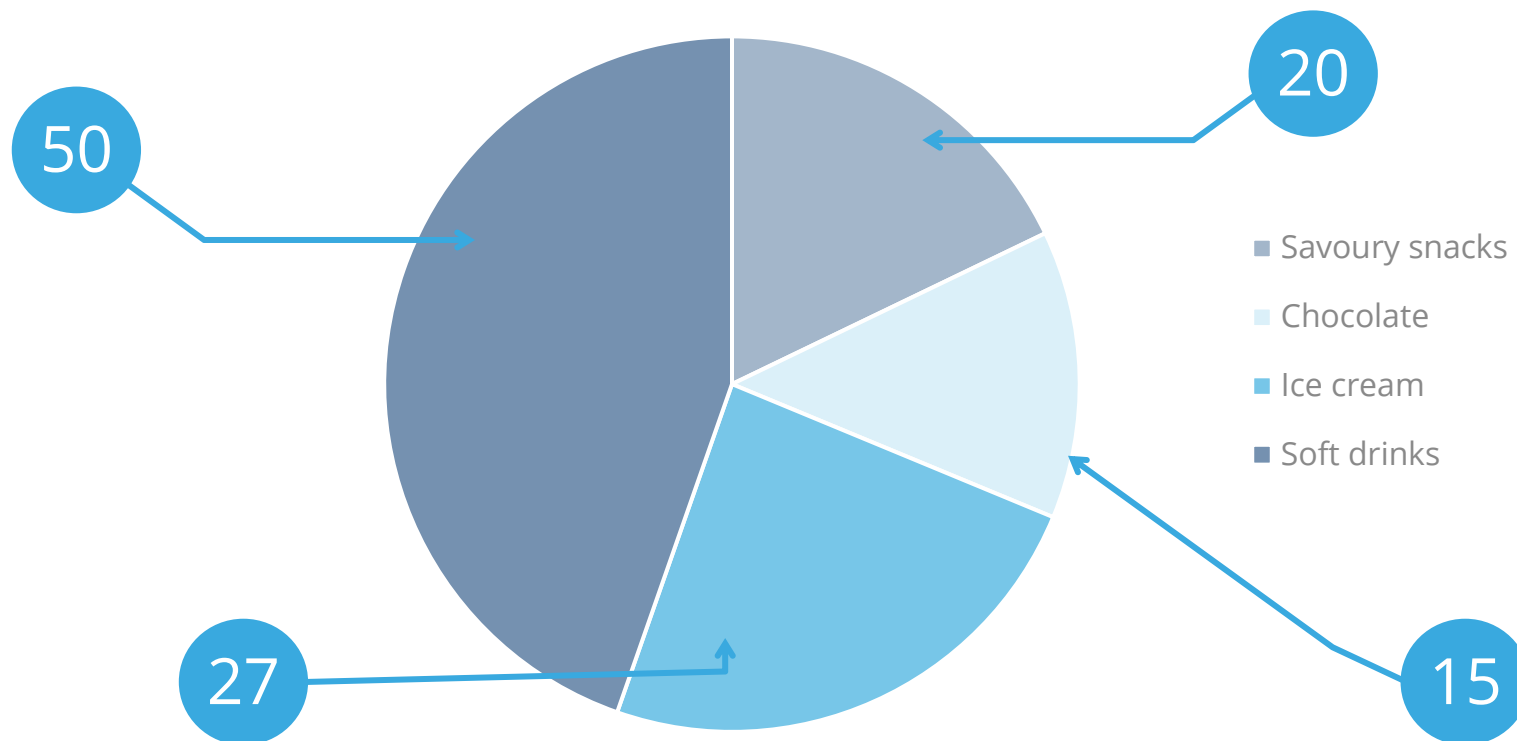
The USA and Germany had **similar** levels of growth between the first and the second quarter. Japan, **on the other hand**, showed only a very small growth rate in the same period. The figures begin to **diverge** in the third quarter, with the USA showing **far greater growth** than the other two countries. In fact, in the same period, Japan shows a decline. In the fourth quarter sales in the USA dropped back down to levels **closer** to those in Germany and Japan. **Both** Germany and the USA saw falls in sales in the fourth quarter **while** Japan, **conversely**, saw a slight rise.

On the next page you will see the pie charts again.



Pie chart

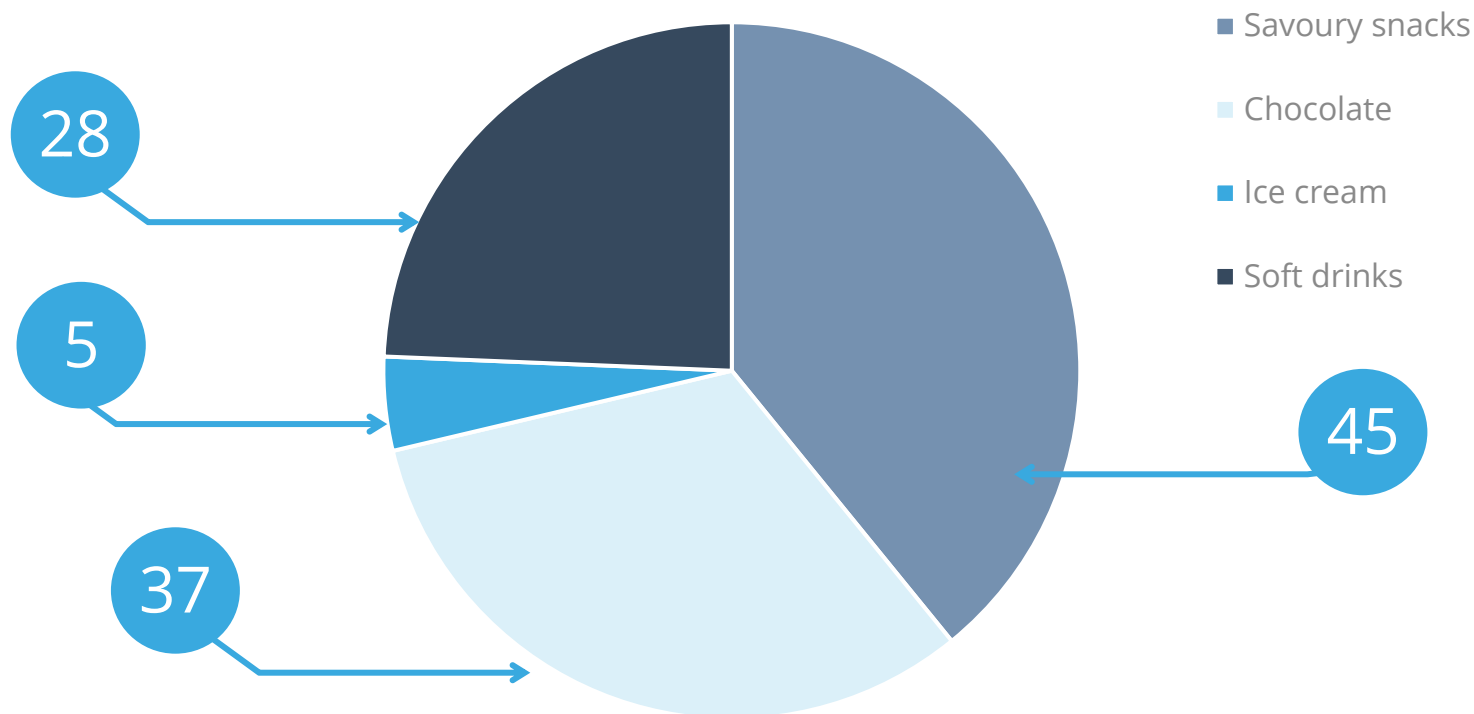
This pie chart shows the sales in 000s of different types of food from a snack stand for the months of June, July and August.





Pie chart

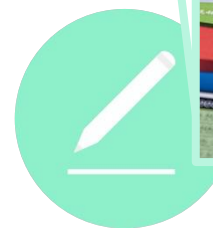
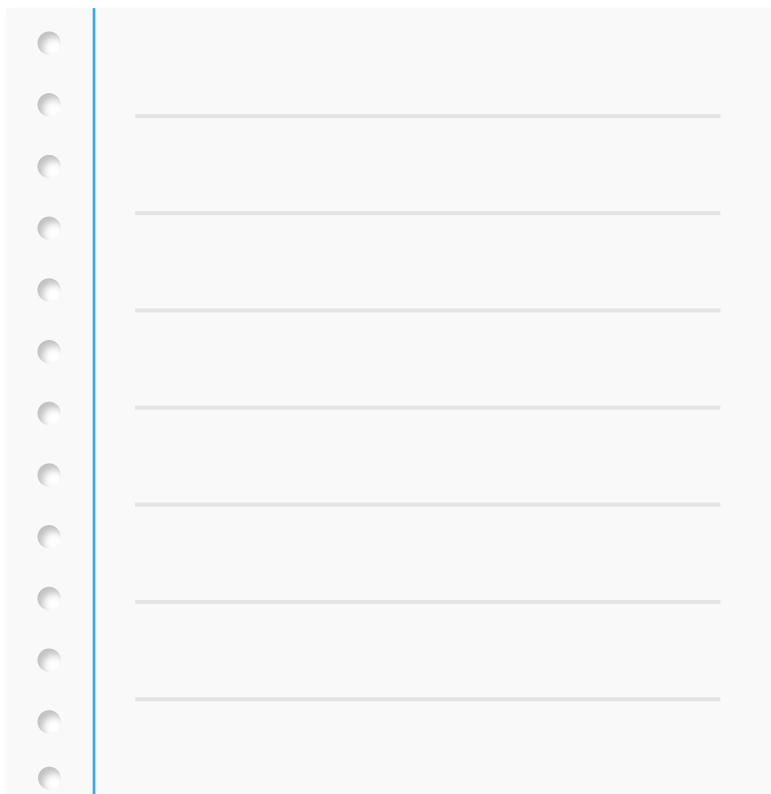
This pie chart shows the sales in 000s of different types of food from the same snack stand for the months of September, October and November.





Comparing the pie charts

Write a short text comparing the two pie charts.
You do not need to make any conclusions yet.





Drawing conclusions

The text below draws some conclusions from the pie charts. Fill in the gaps with the missing phrases.

fall in

tells us

suggest

expect

Firstly, because of the huge decrease in sales of ice cream outside the summer period, I would _____ only ordering very small amounts in September and October, and then monitoring the situation in November, as we can only _____ the trend to continue through the winter months. The rise in sales of savoury snacks and chocolate in the autumn months _____ that it is worth buying larger amounts of stock from September onwards. The _____ sales by almost half of soft drinks shows that we should have large amounts of stock in the summer, and sell that through the autumn months, ordering as necessary.

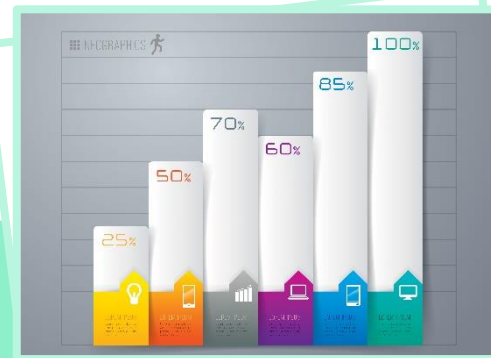




Draw conclusions

Using the text on the previous page to help, draw some conclusions from the data on the bar chart, and make some suggestions for the future.

The huge difference shows...





Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

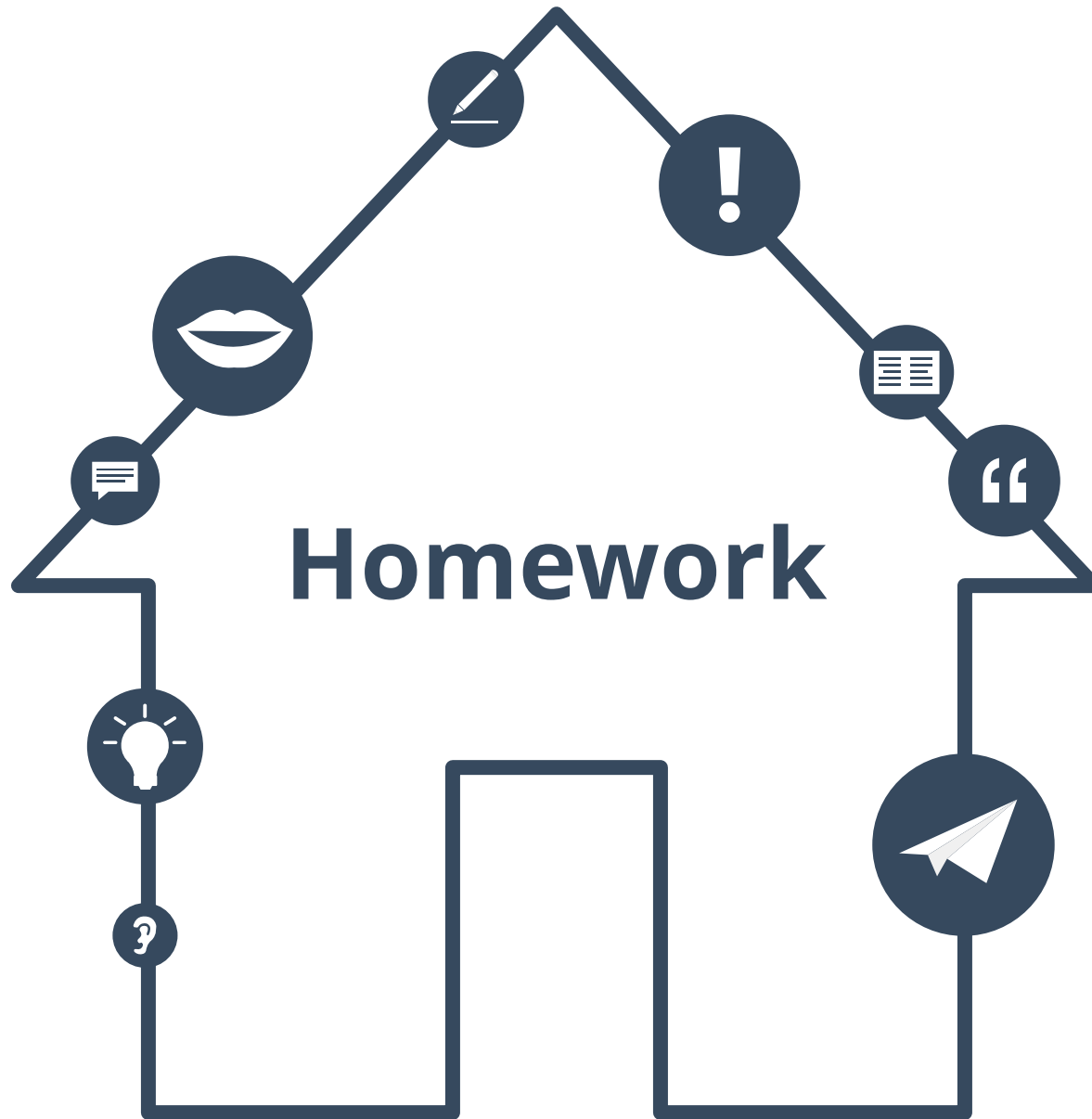
Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





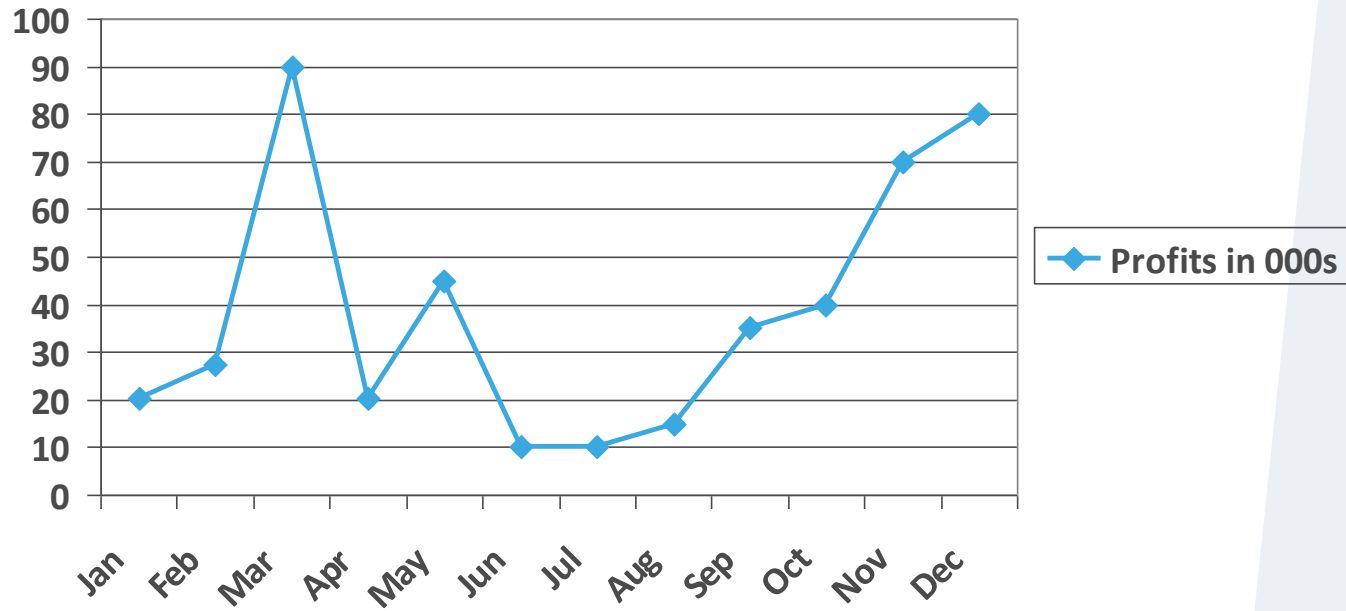
Answer key

Exercise p. 28
suggest, expect, tells us, fall in





Company profits over one year





Drawing conclusions

Write a short text drawing conclusions from the data on the line graph on the previous page.

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