Describing a chart

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL	NUMBER	LANGUAGE
Intermediate	BS_2522X_EN	English

Goals

- Can describe information on a simple chart.
- Can use simple expressions to refer to a graphic.

The **chart** on the screen **shows** the pollution levels in the UK.

They **increased** from 2010 to 2016 but they have **remained stable** since then.

Preview and warm-up

In this lesson, you will practise **describing simple charts**.

This chart here **is about** different age groups and their favourite pets.

Charts and graphs

How often do you use charts and graphs at work?

What kind of information do they show?

New words

pie chart

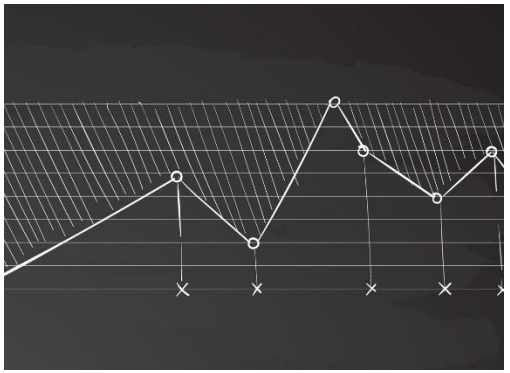
A **pie chart** compares parts of a whole.

bar graph

A **bar graph** or **bar chart** can compare different groups or changes over time.

line graph

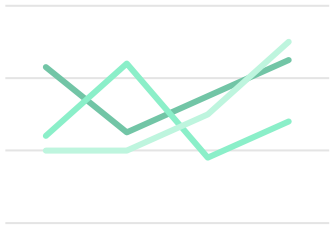
A **line graph** can show changes over time for more than one group.



Match the picture to the label

1. Pie chart
2. Line graph
3. Bar chart
4. Pie chart
5. Line graph
6. Bar chart

A



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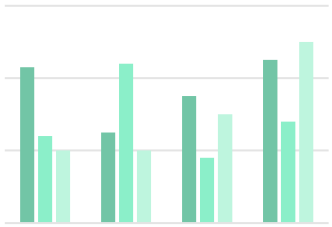

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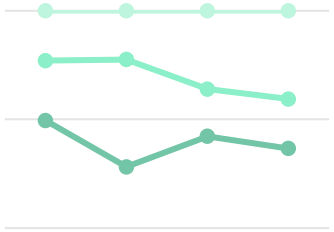

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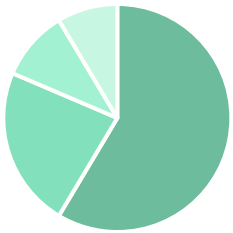

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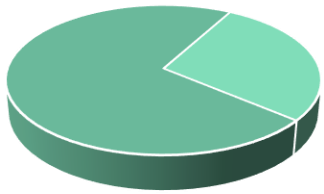

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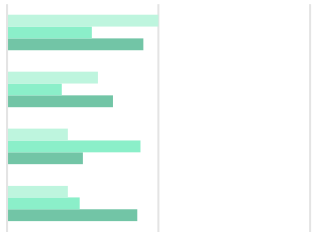


Which type of chart is best to use to...

...compare different age groups and their salaries?

...show how population grew from 2010 to 2019?

...show variations in the number of tourists in different regions of the world?

...show the results of your sales in the past 3 years?

Describing a chart

- You can describe a chart in **three parts**:
  - **Introduction**
  - **Message of the diagram**
  - **Conclusion**

- **Introduction**
- **Message of the diagram**
- **Conclusion**

- This chart **is about** the favourite TV shows for different age groups.
- It **shows** 60+ year olds prefer documentaries, while 18 - 25 year olds prefer reality TV shows.
- **In conclusion, it's clear that** we should sell our new animal documentary series to older people.

Introducing a chart

- The **introduction** is where you explain what the **topic** of the chart is.

This chart is about the most popular clothing shops in Germany.

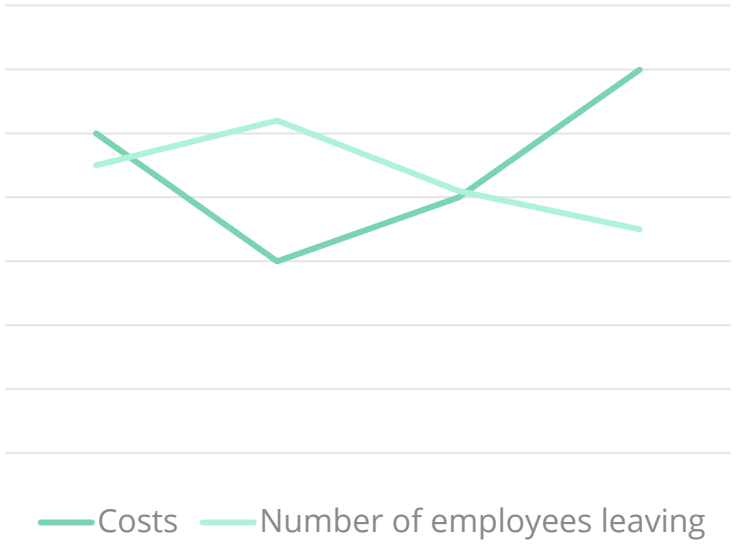
This chart represents different countries and their favourite hobbies.

This chart deals with changes in spending among young people.

Message of the diagram

- In the **message**, you can describe **what the data shows**.
  - You **analyse** the details of the chart or graph.
  - You mention **specific numbers**, key information and comparisons.

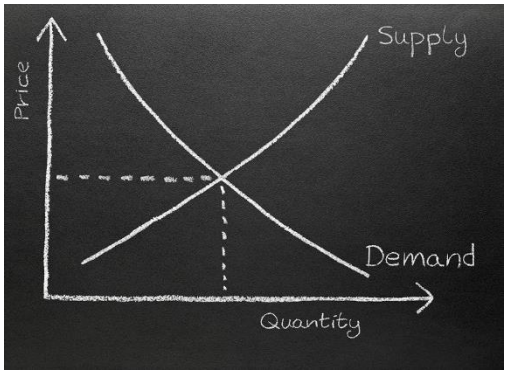
- The graph **shows** that when more employees leave the company, costs **decrease**.
- **We can** also **see that** costs also **increase** when fewer employees leave.



Explaining a chart

...is divided into...

The chart is **divided into** two **parts**.



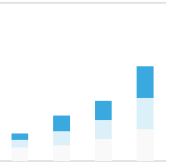
...shows that...

The pie chart clearly **shows that** 50% of travellers prefer sleeping in hotels.

we can see that...

We **can see that** our sales have increased by 20%.

Analysing numbers on a chart

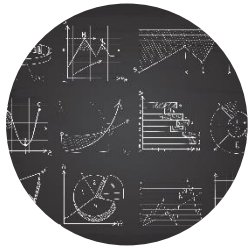
to increase	The number of students has **increased** since 2011.	
to decrease	The number of tourists has **decreased** in the last three years.	
to remain stable	The number of employees has **remained stable** in the last two weeks.	
to grow	The amount of money spent on education has **grown** since 2002.	

Conclusion

- Finally, you **draw conclusions** about the topic and describe the **main trends:**

In conclusion, the chart shows we need to spend more money on marketing.

So, we can say that our company is losing money.

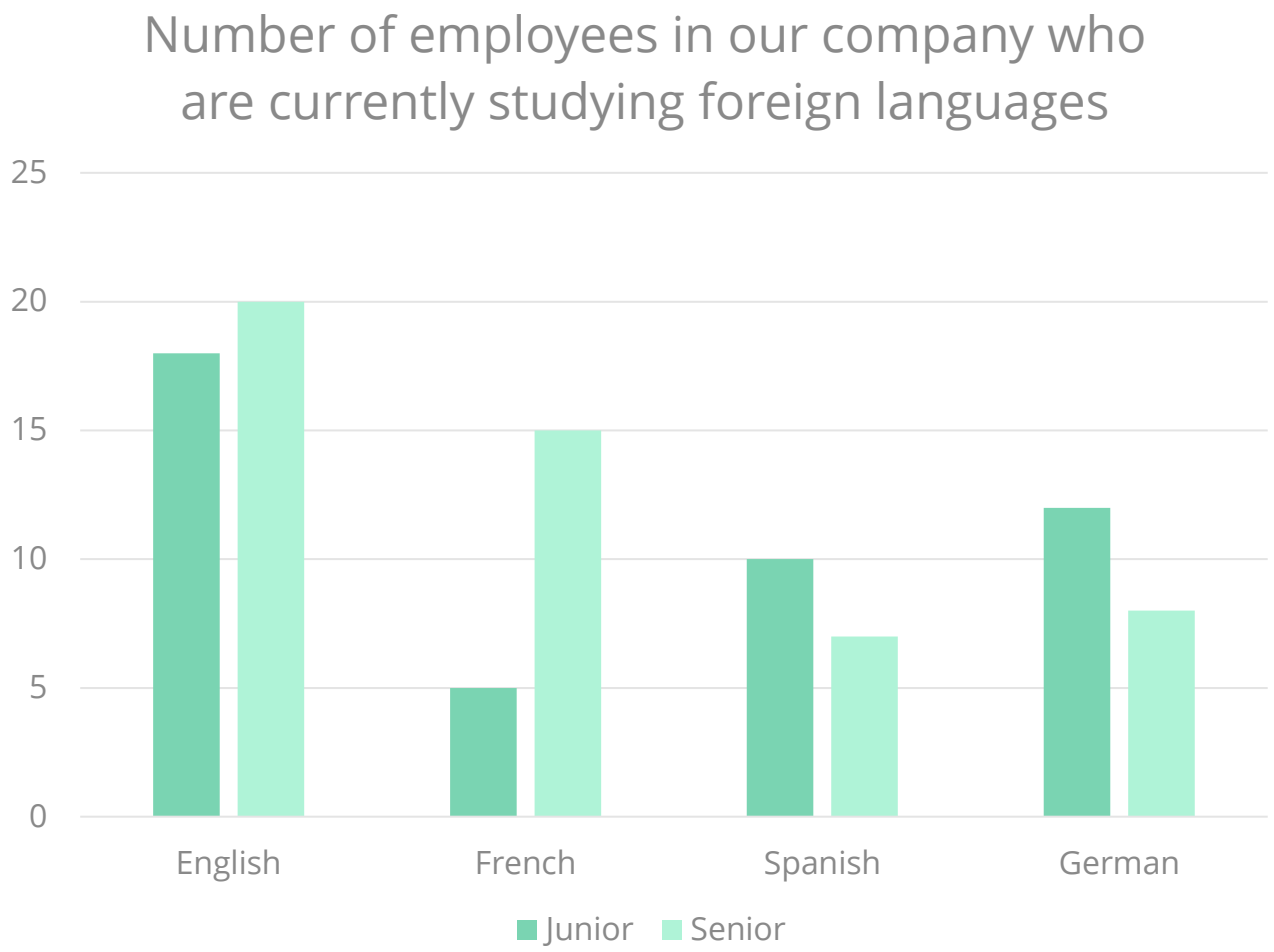


Overall, it is clear that we need to hire more employees.

Match to the definition

1. bar chart	a. A chart with slices to show information.
2. decrease	b. A graph that uses lines to show information.
3. increase	c. to go up
4. pie chart	d. to go down
5. line graph	e. A chart that uses bars to show information.

Pay attention to the graph: what do you see?

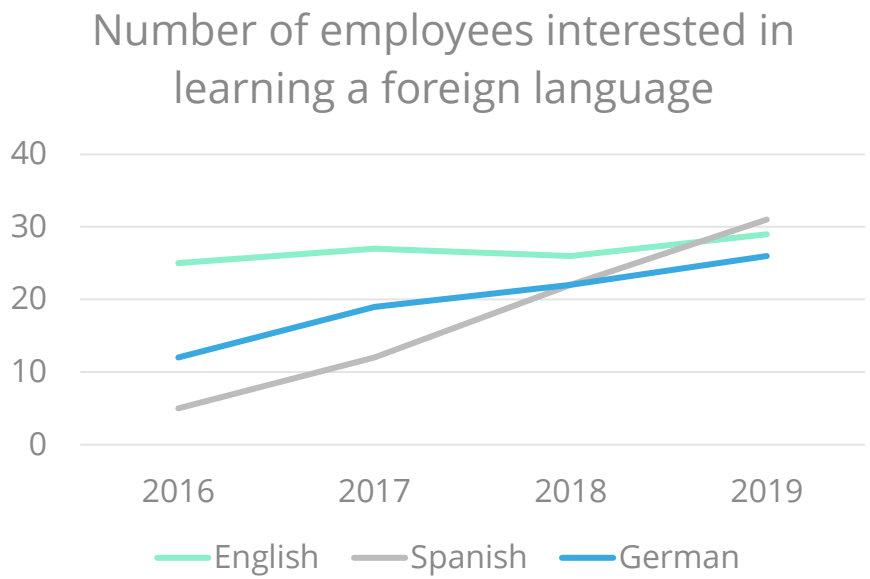


Now choose the correct option about the previous graph

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Both junior and senior employees are learning English.	☐	☐
2. Senior employees are more interested in French than junior employees.	☐	☐
3. 20 junior employees are learning Spanish.	☐	☐
4. Around 8 senior employees are learning German.	☐	☐
5. French is the most popular language at this company.	☐	☐
6. English is the most popular language at this company.	☐	☐

Speaking

Pay attention to the graph.
Then, take turns describing what you see.



1. What is the graph about?
2. What are the most important numbers?
3. What are some conclusions?

Dictation

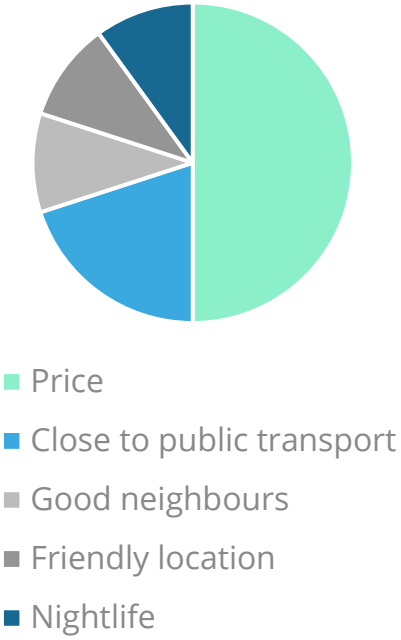
Your teacher is describing a pie chart.
Draw the pie chart while your teacher speaks. Then, compare the results!

Dictation

This is the pie chart your teacher described.

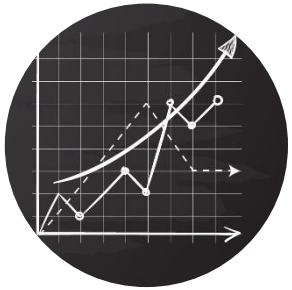
Is your drawing similar?

What people find important when choosing a new home



Using the zero conditional with charts

- We can use the zero conditional to talk about **a cause** and **an obvious consequence**.



If the population grows, it's clear pollution levels also get worse.

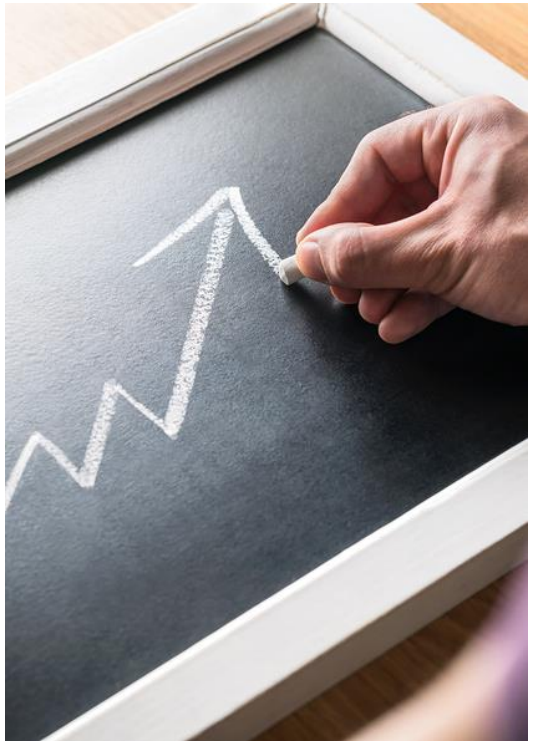
When we spend more money, we can see our costs go up.

What is the logical ending for each sentence?

1. If we don't ever change office...	a. ...employee satisfaction levels go up.
2. If you sell to more regions...	b. ...our rent costs remain stable.
3. When sales decrease...	c. ...we finish work sooner.
4. When salaries increase...	d. ...our revenue goes down.
5. If we start our presentations early...	e. ...your sales increase dramatically.

Speaking

Take turns finishing these sentences with your own ideas.
Remember to use a conditional!



If it rains...

If my manager arrives early...

If you forget the meeting...

If sales go up...

If sales go down...

If our team is successful...

If salaries decrease...

If our sales remain stable...

If costs go up by 50%...

Game

Oh no, the graph shows costs have gone up!

Can you create sentences with a conditional?

If costs go up...

If salaries go down...

If employees are unhappy...

If we lose employees...

Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no

Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again

Answer key

Exercise 1, p.7

1. B or D
2. A or E
3. C or F
4. B or D
5. A or E
6. C or F

Exercise 2, p.8 (suggestions)

1. Top left - Bar graph
2. Top right - Line graph
3. Bottom left - Pie chart
4. Bottom right - Line graph or bar graph

Answer key

Exercise 3, p.15

1. E
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. B

Exercise 4, p.17

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. F
6. T

Exercise 5, p.22

1. B
2. E
3. D
4. A
5. C

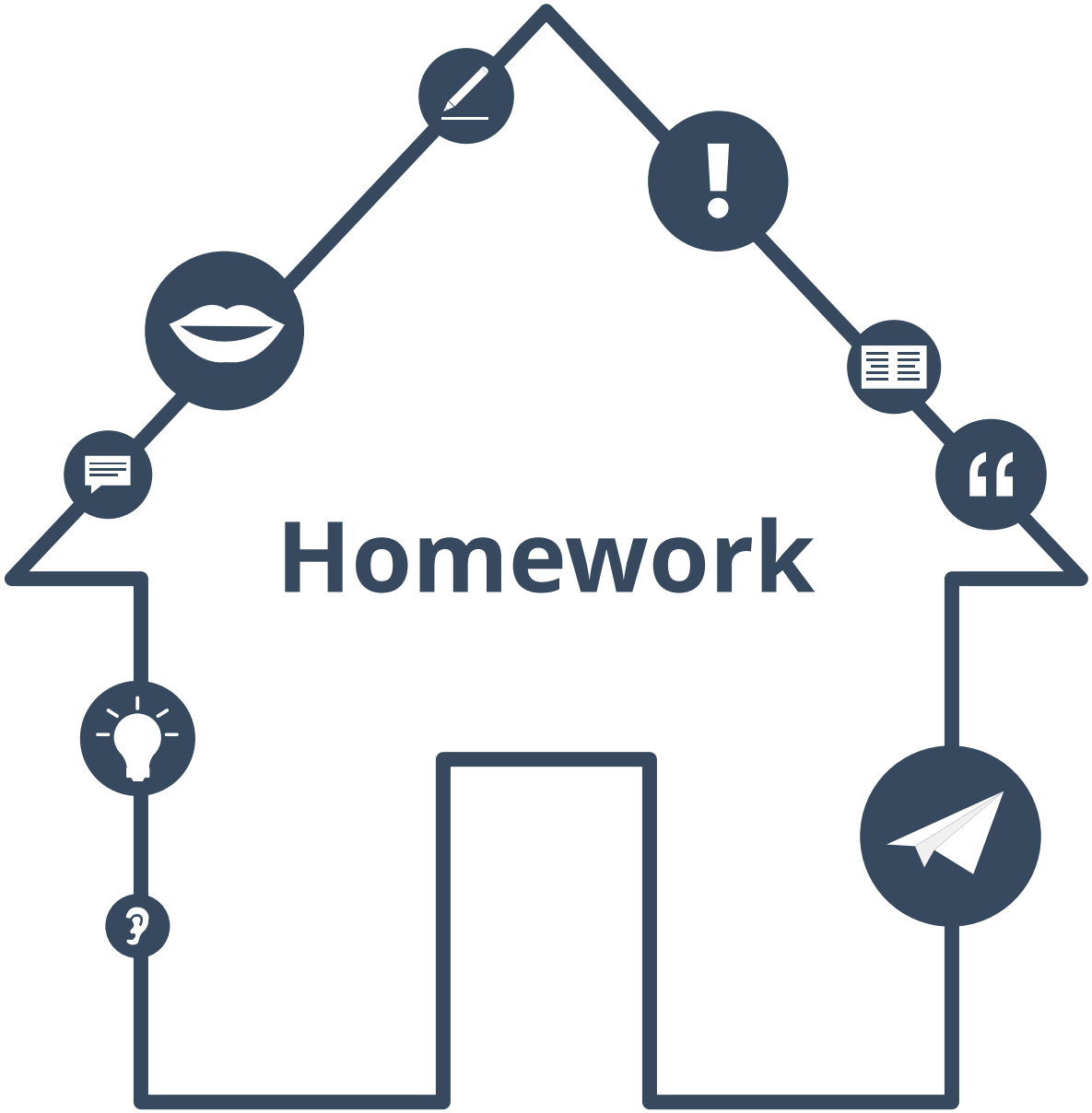
Transcription

"This pie chart is about things people find important when choosing a new home.

The chart clearly shows that 50% think price is the most important factor. We can also see that 20% think being close to public transport is important.

There are three more things people find important: 10% want good neighbours. Another 10% want a friendly location. Finally, another 10% think nightlife is important.

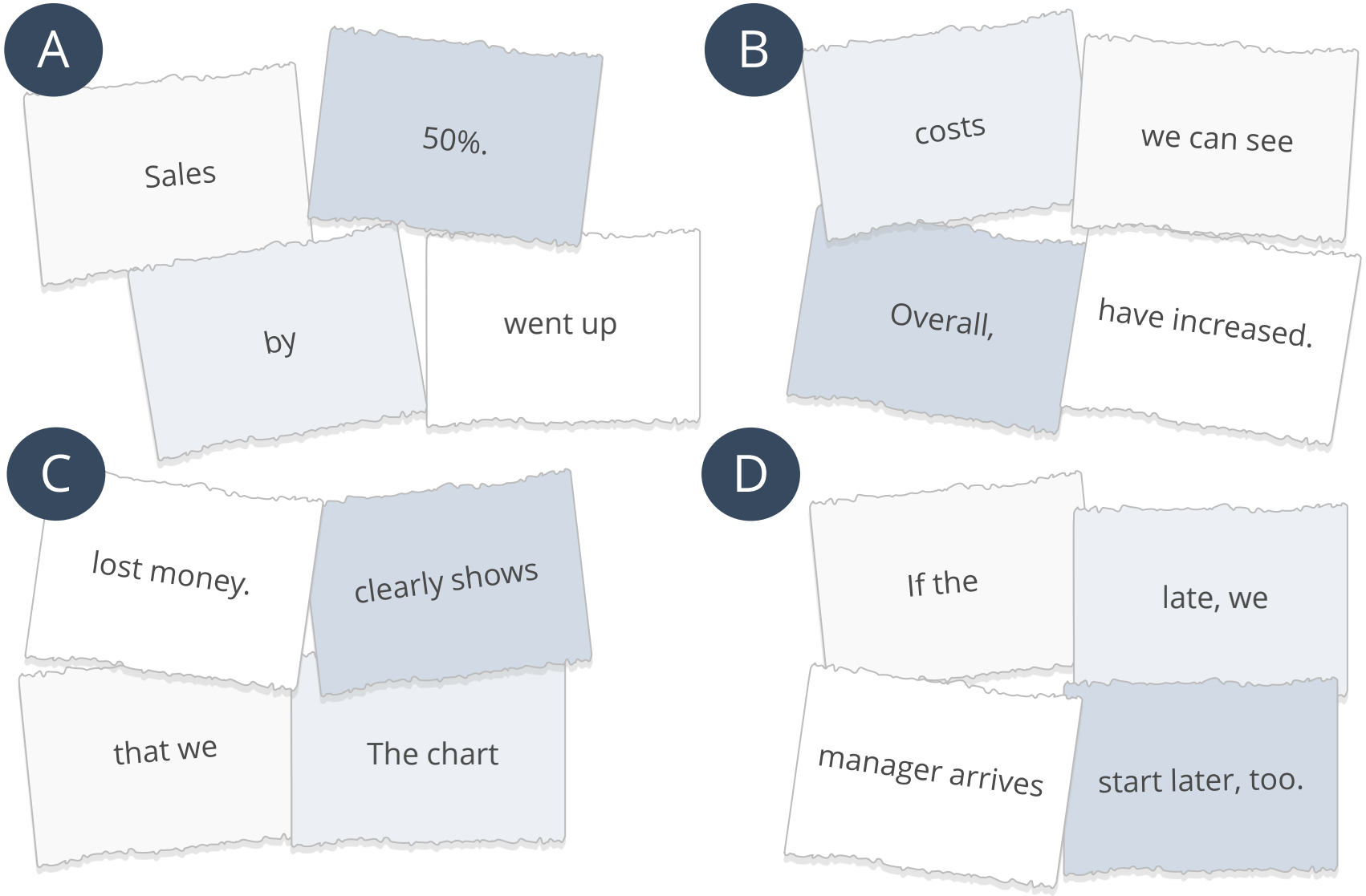
Overall, it is clear that the most important factor when choosing a new home is price."


Homework

Use the zero conditional to complete the sentences!

1. If sales go up... → ...we get a raise.
2. If you prepare the presentation... → _____
3. If we see the manager... → _____
4. If you fail... → _____
5. If we are late for the meeting... → _____
6. If he misses the job interview... → _____
7. If they come to the conference... → _____
8. If she talks to you... → _____

Put the words in the right order



Writing

Choose one chart from this lesson and write some sentences about it.

Include an introduction, the message of the chart and a conclusion!

The chart shows...

Answer key

Exercise 1, p.32

A. Sales went up by 50%.
B. Overall, we can see costs have increased.
C. The chart clearly shows that we lost money.
D. If the manager arrives late, we start later, too.

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