

Useful phrases for IELTS Writing Task One line graphs tasks

In pairs, speak about a Writing Task 1 line graph for as long as you can

Change pairs. Compare which things you talked about and what language you used, then brainstorm other ways of describing the line graph.

Brainstorm language for describing each of these things:

Parts of the graph

Ways of speaking about time

Things going up

Things going down

Going up and down

Staying the same

Becoming flat

Similarities

Differences

First sentence of the introduction

Second sentence of the introduction

Starting the first main paragraph

Starting the second main paragraph

Suggested answers**Parts of the graph**

The vertical axis/ The horizontal axis/ The x axis/ The y axis/ The axes

Ways of speaking about time

In the 90s/ At the beginning of that period/ In the first few weeks

Things going up

Rise/ Climb/ Rocket/ Take off/ Increase

Things going down

Fall/ Drop/ Dive/ Plummet/ Crash/ Decrease

Going up and down

Fluctuate/ Be unsteady/... but remain between... and...

Staying the same

Remain at.../ Be stable/ Remain steady/ Stay (more or less) flat

Becoming flat

Flatten out/ Plateau/ Bottom out

Similarities

A similar trend/ Follow/ (Very) similar/ (Almost) the same

Differences

(Far/ Much) .../ (Not) (nearly) as...as..."

While...,.../ In contrast,.../ ... shows a rather/ very different pattern/ trend.

We can contrast this with.../ ... is almost the exact opposite.

... is (a/ the) (major) exception...

First sentence of the introduction

The (line) graph shows/ represents/ compares/ gives data on/ gives information about/ is based on...

Final sentence of the introduction

The data can be split into... and... I will look at each of these in turn./ I will first look at... and then describe...

Starting the first main paragraph

The first thing you notice looking at the graph is.../ The most noticeable trend is...

The biggest/ most noticeable/ most important difference/ similarity between the... is...

Starting with.../ Looking first of all at...

Starting the second main paragraph

Moving on to.../ Looking at.../ Turning to...