How to describe graphs. Vocabulary

Describing Graphs: Vocabulary

Helpful words and phrases for describing graphs

- **UP - Verbs** go up, take off, shoot up, soar, jump, increase, rise, grow, rocket, improve, climb, escalate (Learn the past tenses!)

- **UP - Nouns** an increase, a rise, a growth, an improvement, an upturn, a surge, an upsurge, an upward trend

- **DOWN - Verbs** go/come down, fall, fall off, drop, slump, plunge, slide, dip decline, decrease, plummet, slip, shrink

- **DOWN - Nouns** a fall, a decrease, a decline, a drop, a downturn, a downturn trend

- **NO CHANGE - Verbs** remain stable, level off, stay at the same level, flatten off, remain constant, stagnate, stabilize, hold steady

- **AT THE TOP - Verbs** reach a peak, peak, top out

- **AT THE BOTTOM - Verbs** reach a low point, bottom out

- **RECOVER** pick up, bounce back, rally

**DEGREES OF CHANGE**

- **Adjectives:**
  - dramatic, considerable, sharp, significant, substantial, moderate, slight,

- **Adverbs:**
  - dramatically, considerably, sharply, significantly, substantially, moderately, slightly

**SPEED OF CHANGE (over time)**

- Abrupt, sudden, rapid, quick, steady, gradual, slow

**PREPOSITIONS**

- a rise from $10 to $12
- to increase by 50%
- to fall by 30%
- an increase of 7.5 per cent over last year

**ESSENTIAL VERBS**

Make sure that you understand the meaning of these verbs:
slump, rise, recover, plunge, pick up, plummet, drop, soar, bounce back, take off, climb, rally, fluctuate, fall, stabilize, slide, flatten out, crash, hold steady, escalate, decline, rocket, dip

**Movement (Verbs): Up**

- Rose
- Wentup
- Increased
- Grew
- Shotup
- Surged
- Rocketed

**Movement (Verbs): Down**

- Fell
- Declined
- Dropped
- Decreased
- Sank
- Wentdown
- Plunged
- Plummeted

**Prepositions**

- Between 1995 and 2000
- From 1995 to 2000
- Salesrosefrom 200 to 250
- Salesfellto 150 inMarch
- Salesfellby 50%

**Adverbsandintensifiers**

- slightly
- a little
- a lot
- sharply
- suddenly
- steeply
- gradually
- gently
- steadily

**No Movement: (Verbs with Adjectives, Verbs)**

- remainedsteady
- wereunchanged
- didnotchange
- remainedconstant
- remainedstable
- stabilized
TopsandBottoms

- reached a peak
- peaked
- reached their highest level
- fell to a low
- sank to a trough
- reached a bottom

Graphs: The Vocabulary of Numbers

This is part of a short introduction to writing about Graphs.

There are some special words for numbers, fractions and percentages.

Look at the following table which shows a number in different years (1990-1995):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You could describe the above table using **numbers**, **fractions** or **percentages**:

- The number went up by 600, from 1200 to 800. *(Number)*
- The number went up by half, from 1200 to 1800. *(Fraction)*
- The figure went up by 50%, from 1200 to 1800. *(Percentage)*
- The figure went up 150%, to 1800. *(Percentage)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use “**trebled,” “-fold,”**” and “**times:**”

- The number trebled between 1994 and 1996.
- The figure quadrupled from 1996 to 1998.
- There was a twofold increase between 1992 and 1994.
- The figure went up sixfold between 1992 and 1996.
- The figure in 1996 was three times the 1992 figure.
- The figure in 1998 was four times the 1996 figure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use **Fractions**:

- Between 1992 and 1994, the figure fell by one-fifth.
- Between 1994 and 1996, the number dropped by a half.
- The figure in 1998 was one-tenth the 1992 total.