**IELTS Task 1 Tips**

**Introduction**

Your introduction should be **quite impressive** as it makes the **first impression on the examiner**. It could potentially make or break your overall score!

If there are **multiple graphs** and each one presents a different type of data, you can write which graph represents what type of data and **use ‘while’ to show a connection**.

**For example:** The given bar graph shows the amount spent on fast food items in 2009 in the UK, while the pie chart presents a comparison of people’s ages who spent more on fast food.

For **multiple graphs and/ or table(s)**, you can write what they present **in combination** instead of saying which each graph depicts.

**For example:** The two pie charts and the column graph in combination provide a picture of the crime rate in Australia from 2005 to 2015 and the percentages of young offenders during this period.

Your **introduction** alone should be **about 20 to 30 words**.

**General overview**

You can write your **introduction (paraphrasing the question) and General overview in the same paragraph**, or you can also write both in **separate paragraphs**. It doesn’t really matter which you chose, but you will have to**write both!**

**Never provide any data (give numbers, percentages or quantity) in your general overview**. You only start discussing the data in detail in the in-depth part. So, you should give **the most striking features** of the graph that could be **easily understood at a glance**.

* In your general overview do not write:
	+ At first glance the graphs reveals that 70% of the male were employed in 2001, while 40 thousand women in this year had jobs
* Instead write:
	+ At first glance the graphs reveals that more men were employed than their female counterparts in 2001 and that almost two-third of the females were jobless in the same year.

**Your Introduction (paraphrasing the question + general overview)** should have a word count of **about 75 – 80 words.**

**In-depth analysis**

Your in-depth analysis is the next part of your writing and **the biggest chunk of the task**. So, it should have **about 75-80 words.** Combined with the 75-80 words of your introduction and General overview you have your 150 to 160 words. This means you have covered the 150 word count.

Depending on the question, you can either**use 1 or 2 paragraphs** for the body of the in-depth analysis. Just remember to**group things together logically.**

**Conclusion**

There is **no need to write a conclusion** for Academic IELTS writing task 1. So, **don’t waste your time** writing one, **focus on your general overview and in-depth analysis**, that’s where you score your points.

**General tips**

**Take time to analyse and plan your writing**, these are essential parts of any writing. It makes sure you know what you are writing about and it **saves time when you are writing**.

**Write in pencil,** that way you can **easily correct your mistakes** in the final 2 minutes, as well as **replace words by synonyms** if you are using the same words too often.

**How to score well on**[**task achievement**](https://ieltsassistance.co.uk/how-the-ielts-test-is-graded/ielts-band-descriptors-overview/task-achievement/)

**You need to:**

* **Analyse the graph(s) well** and write about**the most noticeable things**. Do not write about everything you see, you only have 150 words. Only the things that are **very clear at first glance**. You just have **a minute or 2 to analyse the graph** and then start writing about it.
* **Compare the data**, not just list it.  Write: there are more people surfing the net (35%) than watching TV (25%).
* **Provide a general overview without data**: this is the part after your introduction where you just write approximately 2 sentences about the most noticeable data, without using numbers.
* **Have an in-depth analysis with data.** This is the part where you start using the numbers and details from the graph.
* . Do not write:  You just need the**analyse the data and write a very dry and boring report!**
* Have **at least 150 words**, if you do not reach your word count **you will be penalized** and your **score will go down.**

**How to score well on cohesion and coherence**

**You have to:**

* **Follow the overall structure**, paraphrase the question, General overview, in-depth analysis.
* **Separate your paragraphs:** just leave 1 empty line between them.
* **Make more complex sentences.**
* **Work on your punctuation**, so no sentences which are paragraphs long.

**How to score well on your lexical range**

**You should:**

* Make sure you have a **wide vocabulary** and know how to**use it correctly.**
* **Uses synonyms** as much as possible, try not to use the same word more that once or twice.
* **Use a variety of words** to describe the data, use good verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs.
* Especially use **adverbs and adjectives** when **describing trends/changes**. Don’t write: unemployment went down, instead write: unemployment **went down significantly**. There was **a gradual increase in**…

**How to score well on grammatical range and accuracy**

**You must:**

* Make sure you use [**a variety of grammatical structures**.](https://ieltsassistance.co.uk/ielts-writing-test/academic/writing-task-1/grammar/)
* **Check your punctuation** and **correct** it where needed.
* When you finish your writing, **take 2 minutes** to **read** it again and **check for mistakes**. We all make them, especially when we are stressed. You know you have difficulty with articles, prepositions, tenses, and other small silly mistakes. Just checking at the end and correcting will not only **boost your accuracy score** but also your **overall score**.