

IELTS Writing - Academic Task 1 - Vocabulary

The following words and phrases will help you describe trends:

Nouns	a rise an increase a surge a growth a peak a fluctuation a variation a period of stability a plateau a fall a decrease a decline a dip
Verbs	to rise to increase to surge to grow to peak to skyrocket to fluctuate to vary to fall to decrease to decline to dip to dive to plunge
Phrases	to show an upward trend to show a downward trend to hit the highest point to hit the lowest point to reach a peak to show some fluctuation to fluctuate wildly to remain stable

	<p>to remain static to remain unchanged to stay constant to reach a plateau to level off to flatten out the highest the lowest the second highest the third highest</p> <p>compared to compared with relative to</p>
Adverbs	<p>sharply suddenly rapidly abruptly dramatically significantly steadily considerably markedly slightly gently gradually wildly</p>
Adjectives	<p>sharp sudden rapid abrupt dramatic steep significant steady considerable marked slight gentle gradual</p>

Sample sentences

- There was a substantial increase in the value of stocks on March 15th.
- House prices rose dramatically in July.

- The number of tourists visiting New York fell sharply in October.
- The percentage of students walking to school continued to rise gradually over the ten year period from 2000-2010.
- There was a sharp increase in employee turnover after the strike.
- Interest in environmental issues has risen steadily over the last 10 years.

More useful words and phrases

1. **Percent** – the word percent comes after a number

Examples:

More than 25% of the students are from Brazil.

More than 25 percent of the students come from Brazil.

2. **Percentage** - The word percentage comes after words like the, a, this and that. Often, it is preceded by an adjective.

Examples:

A small percentage of residents have lived in the building for more than 20 years.

The percentage of students who live on campus has fallen sharply since the fire.

3. For numbers up to ten, write the numbers in words. For numbers over 10, you can write the numbers in numbers.

Examples:

Five percent of the employees were late this month.

More than 50 percent of the students handed in their assignments late after the long weekend.

4. If the sentence starts with a number, always write it in words.

Examples: Wrong: 25 students were from China.

Right: Twenty-five students were from China.

Grammar

Take note of the following prepositions which you will need to describe dates, numbers and comparisons:

Dates

In December,

In 2005,

From 2001-2010,

By 1998,

Between 1965-1969

Numbers

Increase of 25%

Decreased by 10%

Fell from 200 in July to 150 in August

1	2	3
The price The population The number of	decreased fell dropped went down	gradually slowly rapidly quickly slightly somewhat significantly substantially dramatically
	increased rose went up	
	remained stayed	the same

Comparison

Compared to

To avoid repeating the same type of sentence over and over again, you can also add in some sentences using the ABCD method:

1	2	3
The price The population	decreased fell	gradually slowly

A	B	C	D
There was a	gradual slow rapid slight significant substantial dramatic	decrease fall decline drop increase rise	in price in the population in the number of ...

The number of ...	dropped went down	rapidly quickly slightly
	increased rose went up	somewhat significantly substantially dramatically
	remained stayed	the same

To avoid repeating the same type of sentence over and over again, you can also add in some sentences using the ABCD method:

A	B	C	D
There was a	gradual slow rapid slight significant substantial dramatic	decrease fall decline drop increase rise	in price in the population in the number of ...

You don't even need to memorise all of this vocabulary if time is short and you are struggling - the most important thing is to learn a few of these, but learn them thoroughly. Learn a way of saying that the numbers go up, that the numbers go down and that the numbers stay pretty much the same, plus a couple of adverbs (123 method) and adjectives (ABCD method).

Learning a few phrases really well, so that you can use them confidently and accurately, will help you focus on the really important part of Task 1 - understanding what the data means, then identifying the most important trends in your general overview paragraph, and describing the trends in more detail in the rest of the report.