

Useful phrases for IELTS writing Part One

With a partner, brainstorm at least two phrases into each of the categories below.

Introduction

Mentioning parts of the graph/ bar chart/ pie chart/ table/ map

Selecting the most important information

Comparing

Contrasting

Stating numbers in different ways from the graph

Quickly mentioning things you've missed out (if you need to)

Conclusion (if you need one)



Compare your phrases to the suggested answers below

Introduction

"The (line) graph/ bar chart (= bar graph)/ pie chart/ map/ table..."
"... shows/ represents/ compares/ illustrates..."

Selecting the most important information

"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 lines/ graphs is..."

Mentioning parts of the graph/ bar chart/ pie chart/ table/ map

"The vertical/ horizontal axis/ The axes"
"Column/ Row"
"Bar"
"Segment"
"Line"
"Key"

Comparing

"(far/ much) ...er/ more/ less..."
"(not) as...as..."
"similar/ almost the same"

Contrasting

"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..."

Stating numbers in different ways from the graph

"Almost a third"
"Just under 90%"
"Just over two thirds"
"A few percent less than..."
"A slight majority"

Quickly mentioning things you've missed out (if you need to)

"... and ... are approximately midway between the two extremes."
"... is similar to ..., while ... and ... are more like..."

Conclusion (if you need one)

"We can therefore see that..."
"Together, the graph and bar chart show that..."