

**Language of trends Similarities and differences
(IELTS Academic Writing Part One/ Business English)**

Similarities

What is the similarity between all the words and expressions in each section? (It could be in meaning when used to talk about trends, original sources or meanings, or anything else)

A

soar
dive
take off
soft landing
crash
rocket
turbulence
plummet

B

grow
expand
shrink

C

plunge
dive
buoyant

D

turbulent
unstable
fluctuate
volatile

E

flatten out
bottom out
level off
stable/ stabilize
steady

F

peak/ reach a peak
bottom out
a new high/ low
an all time high/ low



G

recover
bounce back
V-shaped recession
U-shaped recession
pick up

H

halved
doubled
tripled
dropped by a third

I

escalate
deteriorate
slump

J

improve
recover
ameliorate
augment
buoyant

K

bounce back
rebound

L

boom
explode

M

raise
cut
slash



Differences

What are the differences between the following pairs of words and expressions?

grow/ grow up
fall slightly/ fall sharply
rise/ raise
remain steady/ rise steadily
significant decline/ steady decline
escalate/ improve
rise/ rise up
decrease dramatically/ decrease rapidly
fall/ fall down
rose by a third/ tripled
just over a third/ almost a third
just under a third/ around (= approximately/ about) a third
rose to 20%/ rose by 20%
an increase/ to increase (*pronunciation*)
fall from 2000/ fall to 2000
fall/ fall back

Why?

“Shoot up”, but not “rocket up”?
“Go up”, but not “rise up”?

Useful links for extra practice

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/images/2008/06/28/TT-970628-P14-IB.pdf>

http://www.britishcouncil.org/professionals-exams-ielts_lesson_download_4.pdf

http://www.eslhandouts.com/materials/describing_trends.pdf

<http://www.eslflow.com/describinggraphstables.html>



Language of trends Similarities and differences Answer Key

Similarities

A – All connected to flying

B – All connected to getting bigger or smaller

C – All connected to water

D – All mean go up and down

E – All mean become flat

F – All mean reach a limit

G – All mean reach a limit and then go the other way

H – All connected to numbers

I – All have negative meanings

J – All have positive meanings

K – All connected to balls

L – All connected to explosions

M – All used with a subject who is doing the action rather than changing

Differences

grow/ grow up – grow up means become an adult

fall slightly/ fall sharply – the second one is a faster fall

rise/ raise – the first is a change, the second is used about the person causing that change

remain steady/ rise steadily – the first means flat

significant decline/ steady decline – the first is an amount, the second describes a straight line

escalate/ improve – the first in negative

rise/ rise up – the second means a (literal) revolution

decrease dramatically/ decrease rapidly – the second is more extreme

fall/ fall down – the second is a physical thing, so not used for trends

rose by a third/ tripled – the second is greater, the first just means 33.3%

just over a third/ almost a third – almost a third means just under

just under a third/ around (= approximately/ about) a third – the second could be over

rose to 20%/ rose by 20% - the first means the new value is 20%, the second is the change is 20%

an increase/ to increase (*pronunciation*) – the first is stressed on the first syllable

fall from 2000/ fall to 2000 – the second is the new position

fall/ fall back – the second shows that it was rising before

Why?

“Shoot up”, but not “rocket up”? – rockets always go up

“Go up”, but not “rise up”? – rise is always up