

## **Useful Phrases for IELTS Writing Part One**

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

**Explaining what the task shows (in the first sentence of the essay)**

**Explaining the paragraph structure**

**Selecting the most important information/ Giving overall information**

**Mentioning parts of what the page shows (= Giving details about the graph etc)**

**Upward trends**

**Downward trends**

**Going up and down**

**Not changing**

**Big changes**

**Small changes**

**Comparing**

**Contrasting**

**Sequencing**

**Starting the second main paragraph (= the second paragraph of the body of the text)**

**Conclusion/ Summary (only if you can't find another way of reaching 150 words)**



## Useful Phrases for IELTS Writing Part One Suggested Answers

### Explaining what the task shows

The table/ pie chart/ bar chart/ line graph/ map/ flow chart/ diagram/ illustration/ figures...

... shows/ represents/ gives data on/ presents statistics on/ compares...

... information/ data/ figures...

The vertical axis/ y axis is...

The horizontal axis/ x axis represents...

### Explaining the paragraph structure

These two sources of information will be examined in turn.

I will start by explaining.../ First, I will look at.../ First of all, I will focus on.../ Firstly, I will describe...

In the next paragraph I will.../ and the following paragraph will.../ and then I will.../ ... and after that I will.../ and the final paragraph will be on...

The information will be divided into... and... and looked at in that order.

### Selecting the most important information/ Giving overall information

... stands out (because...)

The first thing you notice looking at the graph is...

The biggest/ largest/ most noticeable/ most important/ most obvious + difference/ similarity/ trend is...

Overall,...

The main trend...

Over the entire period shown,...

It can be said that in general,...

### Mentioning parts of what the page shows

The left-hand column/ first column/ middle column/ second column/ third column/ last column/ right-hand column

The top row/ first row/ second row/ last row/ bottom row

stage of the process

in the North/ Northwest/ Southeast

top right/ bottom left/ middle/ centre

segment

arrow

axis/ axes

### Upward trends

To rise/ go up/ increase/ escalate/ climb/ grow/ expand/ soar/ take off

(nearly) double/ triple

A rise/ An increase

Reach a new high

Plateau

### Downward trends

To drop/ fall/ dive/ plunge/ crash/ decline/ decrease/ deteriorate/ plummet

A drop/ A fall/ A crash/ A decline/ A decrease/ A deterioration

Bottom out

Shrink

(nearly) halve

**Going up and down**

Fluctuate/ Be unstable

Reach a peak

Recover/ Bounce back/ Pick up

**Not changing**

Remain stable

Flatten out

**Big changes**

Significant(ly)/ Substantial(ly)/ Dramatic(ally)/ Considerable(/bly), Sharp(ly)

Dive/ Plunge/ Crash/ Plummet

Rocket/ Shoot up/ Soar/ Take off

**Small changes**

Slight(ly)/ Gradual(ly)

Creep up

**Comparing**

(far/ much/ substantially/ significantly/ slightly) ...er/ more/ less...

(not) as...as...

(very) similar/ almost the same/ almost identical

in some ways similar to...

Comparing the... with/ to...

**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...

**Sequencing**

Some time later...

After that...

The next/ following stage is...

This is followed by...

This reoccurs...

In the following hours/ days/ weeks/ months/ years,...

Subsequently,...

..., after which...

As soon as...,...

**Starting the second main paragraph (= the second paragraph of the body of the text)**

Looking at...

Moving on to...

Turning our attention to...

In contrast to the... above,...

**Conclusion/ Summary (only if you can't find another way of reaching 150 words)**

We can therefore see that...

Together, the graph and bar chart show that...