

Past, Present and Future in IELTS Writing Part One

Look at a line graph or table which includes past, present and future data, and make as many true sentences about the data as you can (including rephrasing the same information in different ways).

Try to find a point or points on the graph that can be described with the language on each line below, then make at least one sentence using each expression. You can start with the easiest lines below if you like.

- is/ are + v+ing (= Present Continuous)

- will/ is expected to/ is predicted to/ is forecast(ed) to/ is projected to
- will be + v+ing (= Future Continuous)
- will have + PP (= Future Perfect)
- is/ are about to...

- +ed (= Past Simple)
- was +v+ing (= Past Continuous)
- had + PP (= Past Perfect/ Past Perfect Simple)
- had been + v+ing (= Past Perfect Continuous)
- has/ have + PP (= Present Perfect/ Present Perfect Simple)
- has/ have + been +v+ing (= Present Perfect Continuous)

Try to find points on the graph or in the table which can be used with each of the time expressions on the next page below and make a sentence with each using the correct tense. Some time expressions might not be possible with the data that you have.

Find at least one typical time expression for each line in the previous section above.

Read the question given with the line graph or table and underline the key words. Discuss which data you should select and summarise, and which is probably not worth mentioning. Then describe just the relevant parts with a range of different language, making sure you use the right past, present and future verb forms and time expressions.

Look at another graph or table with at least two of the past, present and future. Underline the key words in the question and describe just the most relevant data with a good mix of verb forms and time expressions. Then do the same with a map task.



Times to find on a graph and use to describe it

... ago

(a.../ ...s) after that

at that moment/ at that time

at the beginning of...

at the end of...

at the moment

at...

at/ on/ in + approximately/ around/ more or less/ about...

(a.../...s) before that

between... and...

by...

by the time...

during...

for a...

for...s

from...

from... to...

in ...s

in a...

in the following...(s)

in the last...

in the middle of...

in the near future

in the next...

in the previous...

in the recent past

in...

next,...

now

on...

over the next... (s)

previously

recently

since...

still

subsequently,...

when that happens,.../ when...