

How to Describe IELTS Task 1 Diagrams and Visual Data?

Worksheet

To describe diagrams effectively, first overview the main trends and key features. Then compare data using precise verbs (increased, declined, peaked, fluctuated) and highlight the most significant details with specific figures.

Questions

1. What is the first step when describing a diagram?

- A) List all the numbers you see
- B) State your opinion about the data
- C) Give an overview of what the diagram shows
- D) Explain what caused these changes

2. Which word best describes a value that goes up and down repeatedly?

- A) Increased
- B) Peaked
- C) Fluctuated
- D) Remained

3. When comparing two values in a diagram, what should you include?

- A) Only the larger number
- B) Both figures and the difference or percentage
- C) Only percentage changes
- D) No specific numbers

4. Should you include every small change visible in the diagram?

- A) Yes, every detail is important
- B) No, focus only on major trends and significant features
- C) Only numbers larger than 100
- D) Only negative changes

5. Describe a line graph showing smartphone sales from 2010-2020, with values rising from 50 million to 350 million.

6. Summarize a pie chart showing market share: Apple 30%, Samsung 25%, Xiaomi 20%, Others 25%.

7. Compare a bar chart of annual rainfall across three cities: City A 1200mm, City B 800mm, City C 1500mm.

8. Define: Name 5 key vocabulary words for describing trends.

9. Define: How should you start a diagram description?

10. Define: What's the difference between 'figures' and 'trend'?

Answer Key

1. C) Give an overview of what the diagram shows — An overview sentence introduces the diagram type, time period, and main subject before diving into details.
2. C) Fluctuated — 'Fluctuated' describes irregular changes or variations in data over time.
3. B) Both figures and the difference or percentage — Effective comparisons include specific figures and explain the difference: 'A was 200, while B was 150, a difference of 50.'
4. B) No, focus only on major trends and significant features — Academic writing emphasizes significant patterns and main trends, not every minor fluctuation.
5. The graph illustrates the trend of smartphone sales over a ten-year period. Smartphone sales increased dramatically from 50 million units in 2010 to 350 million in 2020. The most significant growth occurred between 2012 and 2015, while the rate of increase slowed after 2018.
6. The pie chart shows the distribution of global smartphone market share among four segments. Apple holds the largest share at 30%, followed by Samsung with 25%. Xiaomi and other brands account for 20% and 25% respectively, indicating a competitive market.
7. The bar chart presents annual rainfall data for three cities. City C receives the highest rainfall at 1500mm, while City A receives 1200mm. City B has the lowest rainfall at 800mm, indicating a 60% difference between the wettest and driest cities.
8. Increased/rose, decreased/declined, fluctuated, peaked/reached a peak, remained stable, leveled off, surged.
9. Begin with an overview sentence explaining what the diagram shows and what period or categories it covers.
10. Figures are specific numbers; trends show the general direction or pattern of change (increasing, decreasing, stable).

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