

Lesson Plan: Describing trends

Level	Intermediate (B1–B2)
Time	60–75 minutes
Skills	Vocabulary, writing, speaking
Focus	Rise/fall/stable verbs and nouns; adverbs of degree; describing graphs and statistics

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use a wide range of verbs and nouns to describe upward, downward, and stable trends
- Use adverbs to describe the speed and degree of change precisely
- Describe graphs, charts, and statistics clearly and without repetition
- Avoid over-relying on 'increase' and 'decrease' — vary the vocabulary

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

Verbs: upward trends

- rise, increase, grow, climb, go up, improve — neutral to formal
- surge, soar, rocket, jump, shoot up — strong/dramatic increase

Verbs: downward trends

- fall, decrease, decline, drop, go down — neutral
- plummet, plunge, slump, collapse, tumble — dramatic fall

Verbs: stable/mixed trends

- remain stable/steady, level off, plateau — no significant change
- fluctuate, vary, oscillate — irregular movement up and down
- peak — reach the highest point | reach a low — reach the lowest point
- recover, bounce back — return to a better level after a fall

Adverbs of degree

- sharply, steeply, dramatically, significantly, substantially (strong change)
- gradually, steadily, slowly, moderately, marginally, slightly (gentle change)

Meaning & Nuance

Verb	Noun form	Strong adverb	Gentle adverb
rise	a rise / an increase	rise sharply	rise gradually
fall	a fall / a drop	fall dramatically	fall slightly
grow	growth	grow rapidly	grow slowly
decline	a decline	decline significantly	decline marginally
fluctuate	fluctuation	fluctuate wildly	fluctuate gently

plateau	a plateau	—	level off steadily
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LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: What does the graph show? (5 min)

Task: A simple graph on the board. Students describe it using any vocabulary they currently have.

→ Reveals the current vocabulary range and creates motivation for new language.

2. Vocabulary presentation (15 min)

Task: Verbs by direction: up, down, stable, mixed. Then adverbs by intensity.

- Verb → noun transformation: rise → a rise, fall → a fall, grow → growth.
- Emphasis: vary your vocabulary. Don't use 'increase' five times in one paragraph.

3. Graph description task (20 min)

Task: Students receive 3 different charts and write a description for each.

- Chart 1: steady rise then plateau (product sales over 5 years)
- Chart 2: sharp fall, partial recovery, fluctuation (share prices)
- Chart 3: gradual increase with one significant dip (website visitors)
- Peer review: is the vocabulary varied? Are adverbs used?

4. Spoken summary (15 min)

Task: Students present one graph description verbally to the class without notes.

- Class listens and notes any vocabulary that could be improved.

→ High value for IELTS Academic Task 1 preparation.

TEACHER NOTES

- This is essential IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 vocabulary — among the highest SEO-value topics.
- Verb → noun transformation (increase → an increase) is frequently tested in Cambridge exams.
- Emphasise: 'There was a significant increase' not 'there was a significant increment' — common error.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Find a graph online and write a 100-word description using varied trend vocabulary.
2. Write 5 sentences describing the same trend using 5 different verbs.
3. Describe how something in your country has changed over the last 10 years.