



Writing an a Line Graph Report

Introductory Paragraph

Ex. 1 Match the parts of the introduction to the examples.(click an option on the left then an option on the right):

Overview ●

- Overall, the cost of rail travel increased substantially over the period, while the cost of bus travel declined marginally. I can also be seen that rail travel was the most expensive throughout the period.

Description ●

- The line graph provides information about the cost of plane and bus tickets in the Netherlands, measured in euros, between 1991 and 2001.

Writing a Description

Simply put, a noun phrase is a group of words that acts as the subject or object of a sentence. It can be as simple as an adjective and a noun, but it is often more complicated, including prepositional phrases, as well as participle or relative clauses.

Noun phrases describe the general topic (the Y-Axis), the categories, and the location (if there is one). This information is found in three places:

- The chart title
- The task prompt
- The legend

Ex. 1 Use the above labels to label this task:

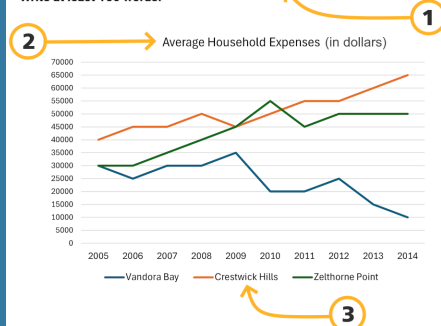
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The line graph below shows the average expenditure of households in three US towns between 2005 and 2014.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

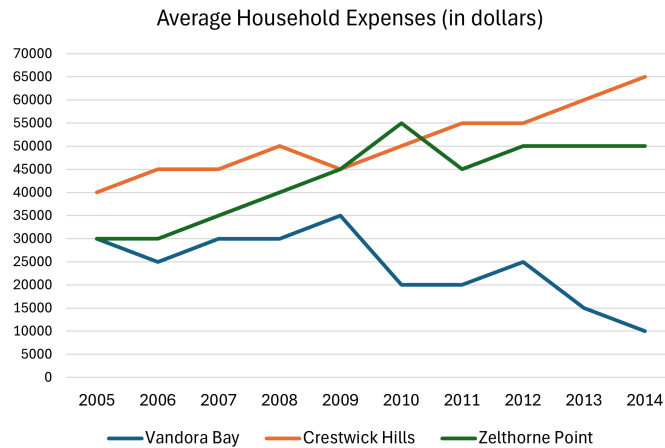




Different line graphs show different types of information. The best way to understand what information is being shown is to look at the y-axis (the numbers going up the side) and the legend (the categories often below or next to the line graph), and ask the following questions:

1. What is being counted?
2. How is it divided into categories?

Ex. 2 Look at the chart again, and think about what the numbers represent? Choose an option from the list below the chart:



- Different categories of people, such as men and women
- People doing different things, such as visiting a country or studying a course
- Money being spent on different things, such as food, rent, and utilities
- Money being spent or earned by different people, groups, or countries
- Types of things being sold, exported, produced, or receiving some kind of action
- Aspects of a something, such as population, GDP, cost, temperature

Ex. 3 Now look at the descriptions below. Match the types of information from the list above to the examples. Write the type of information above the examples in the space provided.

1. _____



- The line graph illustrates **the GDP of three Scandinavian countries**, measured in billions of dollars, between 1970 and 1979.
- The line graph illustrates **population figures for Europe, Asia, and Africa**, measured in billions, from 2005 to 2014.

2. _____

- The line graph illustrates **the number of people who visited three tourist attractions in North America** between 2000 and 2009.
- The line graph illustrates **student numbers for Science, History, and Art courses at Bramstone College** between 1980 and 1990.

3. _____

- The line illustrates **the number of French, German, and Dutch Tourists who visited the UK** between 1995 and 2005.
- The line graph illustrates **enrollment numbers at an online university for students aged 18 to 22, 23 to 27, and 28 to 32** between 2001 and 2010.

4. _____

- The line graph illustrates **the amount of CO₂ produced by three South East Asian countries** between 1990 and 1999.
- The line graph illustrates the **number of CDs, books, and magazines sold at a newsagent in London** from 2002 to 2011.

5. _____

- The line graph illustrates **the average income of four age groups in Canada** between 2010 and 2019.
- The line graph illustrates **the salaries of working-class, middle-class, and upper-middle-class workers in the US**, measured in dollars, from 2015 to 2024.



6. _____

- The line graph illustrates **the amount of money spent by a publishing company on salaries, materials, and rent** between 1980 and 2000.
- The line graph illustrates **consumer spending on entertainment products, clothing, and food in the UK** from 1970 and 1979.

Noun phrases might include the general topic (what the numbers on the y-axis show), the categories (what is seen in the legend), and a location.

Ex. 4 Look at the examples in exercise 3 and circle the topic, underline the categories, and draw a rectangle around the location.

Example:

The line graph shows the number of people who were admitted to hospital for three different conditions in the UK between 1990 and 1999.

Let's look at some structures for noun phrases that you can use:

The number/amount of + topic noun + relative clause + prepositional phrase for categories + prepositional phrase for location.

- **The amount of trees that were chopped down in Switzerland.**

Topic Compound noun/noun + figures/numbers + prepositional phrase for categories + prepositional phrase for location.

- **Sales figures for SunTech, GreenPower, and HydroCorp**

The number/amount of + category adjective/modifier + topic non + participle phrase + prepositional phrase for location.



- **The number of Spanish, French, and German beers sold in the UK.**

The + Aspect noun + prepositional phrase for categories + prepositional phrase for location.

- **The temperature of three cities in Italy.**

Rules

- If the chart shows the frequency of an action, then you should use a relative clause in the passive voice, or a participle phrase using a past participle.
- If the chart shows the number of people performing an action, then you should use relative clauses with the active voice, or a participle phrase using the present participle.
- If the prompt uses a participle phrase or relative clause to describe the categories, then use a compound noun with a prepositional phrase.
- If the categories are characteristics, use them as adjectives or modifiers to describe the people or things in your noun phrase.
- Use an adjective or modifier if it collocates with the general topic. For example...
 - The number of **male and female** students studying Science
 - The amount of **Canadian, Mexican, and US** wheat that was exported
 - The amount of **thriller, sci-fi, and fantasy** books sold

One exception to this would be age, such as, **"The amount of kimchi that was eaten by people aged 16-20, 21-25, and 26-30"**

- Create compound nouns using modifiers, such as..
 - Car sales
 - Wheat exports
 - Sales figures
 - CO2 emissions

Ex. 5 These noun phrases are made using relative clauses. Turn them into noun phrases using participle clauses:

1. The number of tourists who travelled by plane, train, and boat
-



2. The amount of money that was spent on education, health, and policing

3. The quantity of chicken that was exported to the USA, Mexico, and Canada

Ex. 6 These noun phrases are made using participle clauses. Turn them into noun phrases using category adjectives/modifier and topic nouns and a prepositional phrase:

1. The number of smart devices sold to people of three different age groups in the UK

2. The number of people shopping at three highstreet department stores in London

3. The amount of money spent each month on social activities, exercise, and hobbies.

Ex. 7 These noun phrases are made using category adjectives/modifier and topic nouns and a prepositional phrase. Turn them into noun phrases using relative clauses:

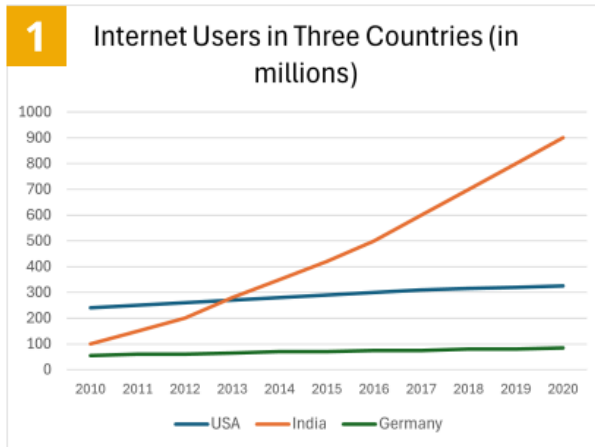
1. Car sales for Ford, Mercedes, and Lexus

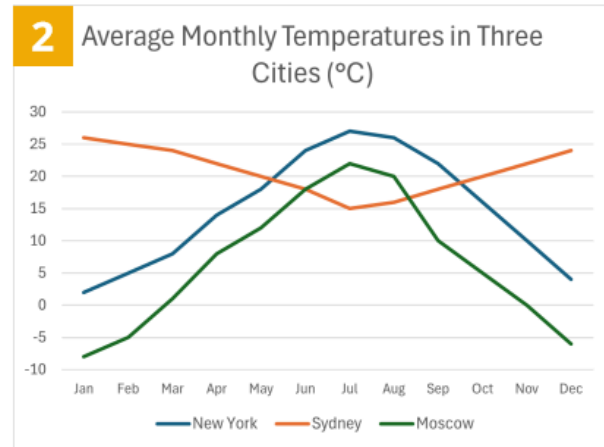
2. Visitor numbers for 4 tourist attractions in the UK

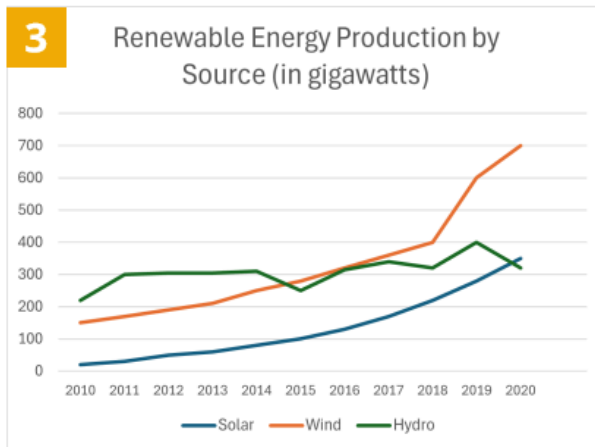
3. Hospital admissions for three wards in a UK hospital

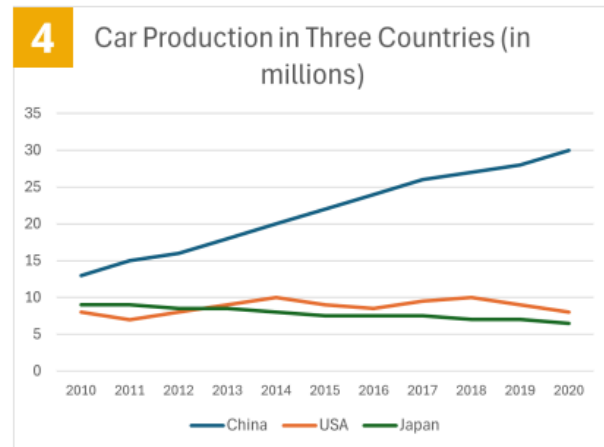


Ex. 8 Look at the charts and write a suitable noun phrase for the information shown.









Ex. 9 Use the structure provided to write a description for the line graph beneath it:

Follow these steps to write a description:

1. "The line graph illustrates..."
2. **Noun phrase for Y-axis variable, categories, and location**
3. (Optional) "measured in..."
4. "Between _____ and _____" or "From _____ to _____"

Example:

(1) The line graph provides information about (2) university admissions in Spain, Italy, and Malta, (3) measured in thousands, (4) between 1990 and 2000.

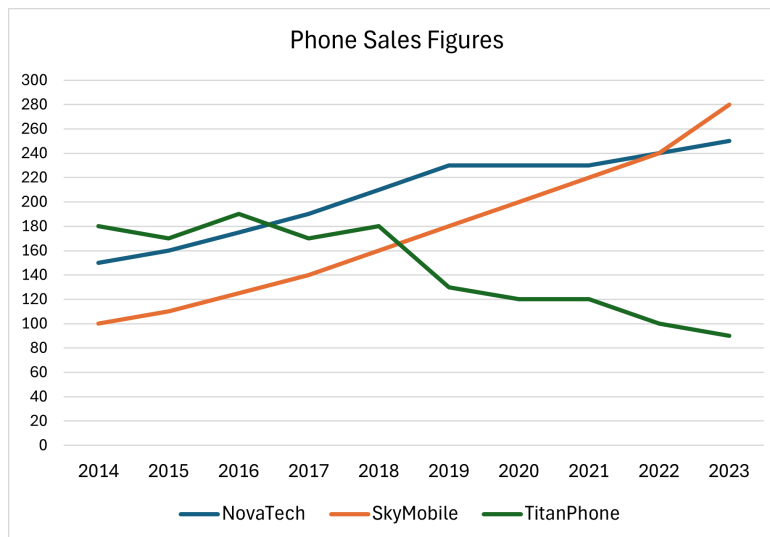


You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The line graph below shows the phone sales of three brands at a shop called Phones4U from 2014 to 2023.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



Description:

Writing an Overview

The next part of our introduction is the overview, which briefly summarizes the trends and main comparisons. It is made up of two sentences and use the following structure:



Follow these steps to write an overview:

Sentence 1

1. "Overall..."
2. Description of similar trends using the past simple (with with adverbs but no figures)
3. "whereas"
4. Description of remaining trend or trends using the past simple (with with adverbs but no figures)

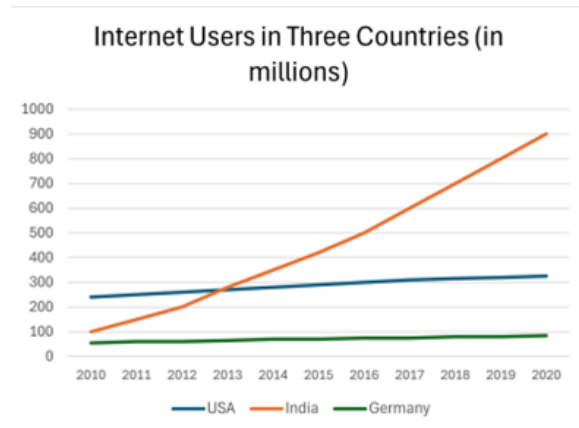
Sentence 2:

5. "It can also be seen that..."
6. **A comparative sentence**

Let's look at an example

Overview:

(1) Overall, (2) internet use in the USA and Germany increased marginally, (3) whereas (4) internet use in India increased dramatically. (5) It can also be seen that (6) while the USA had the highest number of users at the beginning of the period, was overtaken by India by the end of the period.



The Comparative sentence

We have already looked at writing the past simple with trend verbs and adverbs, but writing a comparative sentence is more difficult. So let's focus on that now.

One of four things will happen over the period:

- One of the categories will have the highest figures and one will have the lowest throughout the period.
- One of the categories will overtake another to have the highest figures.
- One of the categories will have the highest figures throughout the period, while the others will switch position.
- All the categories will switch position.



Example

It can also be seen that throughout the period, Kelly Beach was the most popular attraction, while Aston Tower was the least popular.

It can also be seen that while Toyota sold the most cars at the beginning of the period, it was overtaken by Porsche by the end of the period.

It can also be seen that while Cornpufts sales overtook Wheatflake sales, Chocobites remained the most popular cereal throughout the period.

It can also be seen that both USA, and China overtook Japan, with the latter producing the most batteries by the end of the period.

Structure

It can also be seen that throughout the period, (superlative for X), while (Superlative for Y)

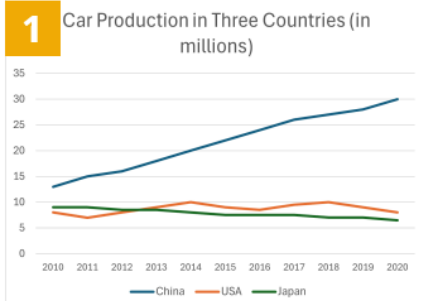
It can also be seen that while (superlative for X) at the beginning of the period, it was overtaken by (Y) by the end of the period.

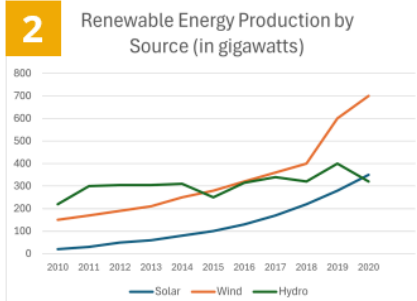
It can also be seen that while (X) overtook (Y), (Z) remained (superlative) throughout the period.

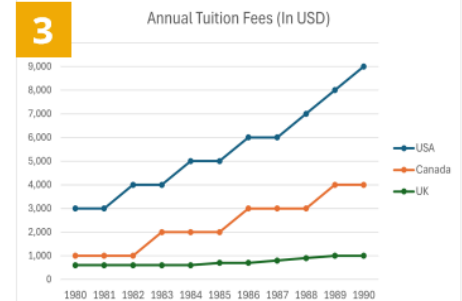
It can also be seen that both (X), and (Y) overtook (Z), with the latter (Superlative for Z) by the end of the period.

When writing a superlative, you might state that X had the highest number of sale, it bought the most CDs, or was the most visited, or most popular. You cannot simply say, "it was the highest" as the reader will not know what this actually means.

Ex. 10 Look at the line graphs below, and write a comparative sentence:









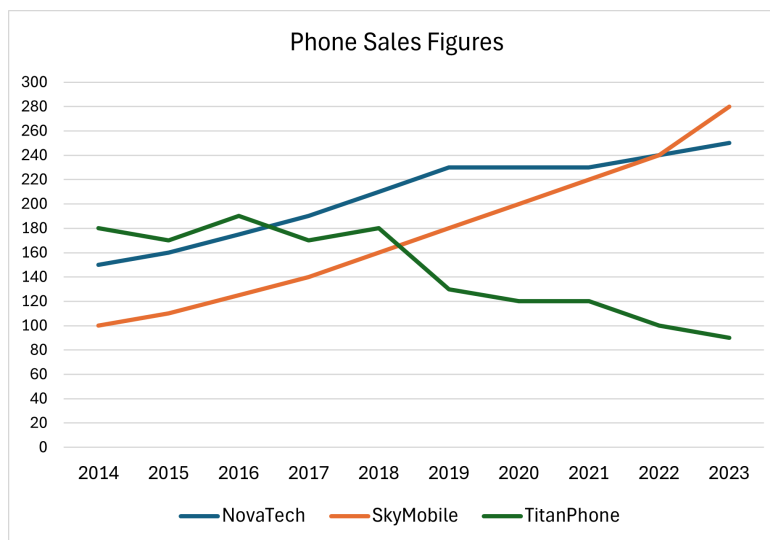
Ex. 10 Use the structure provided to an overview for the line graph below:

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The line graph below shows the phone sales of three brands at a shop called Phones4U from 2014 to 2023.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



Overview



Ex. 11 Using the template, identify the features of this line graph and write a plan.

Line Graph Report Plan

P1 Description

Overview

P2 Phone Brands: _____ and _____

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

P3 Phone Brand: _____

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Writing the Main Paragraphs

To write your main paragraphs use these steps:

Follow these steps to write the first **main** paragraph:

- Start with a topic sentence which summarizes the trends (similar to the first sentence of your overview). It should start with the phrase, "Over the given timeframe,.."
- Describe a feature in the past simple using relevant detail and compare if necessary.
- Use linking language if needed.
- Describe a feature in the past simple using relevant detail and compare if necessary.
- Use linking language if needed.
- Repeat as necessary

Follow these steps to write the **second** main paragraph:

- Start with a topic sentence which summarizes the trends (similar to the first sentence of your overview). It should start with the phrase, "On the other hand,.."
- Describe a feature in the past simple using relevant detail and compare if necessary.
- Use linking language if needed.
- Describe a feature in the past simple using relevant detail and compare if necessary.
- Use linking language if needed.
- Repeat as necessary.

