

Describing Graphs

Here are the words and phrases you need to talk about trends using graphs. Make sure you can translate these into your own language.

UP – verbs

go up	take off	shoot up	soar	jump
increase	rise	grow	improve	rocket

UP – nouns

an increase	a rise	a growth	an improvement
an upturn	a surge	an upsurge	an upward trend

DOWN – verbs

go/come down	fall	fall off	drop	slump
decline	decrease	slip	plummet	shrink

DOWN – nouns

a fall	a decrease	a decline	a drop
a downturn	a downward trend		

NO CHANGE – verbs

remain stable	level off	stay at the same level
remain constant	stagnate	stabilise

AT THE TOP – verbs

reach a peak	peak	top out
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AT THE BOTTOM – verbs

reach a low point	bottom out	recover
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DEGREES OF CHANGE

Adjectives:	dramatic, considerable, sharp, significant, substantial, moderate, slight
Adverbs:	dramatically, considerably, sharply, significantly, substantially, moderately, slightly

SPEED OF CHANGE

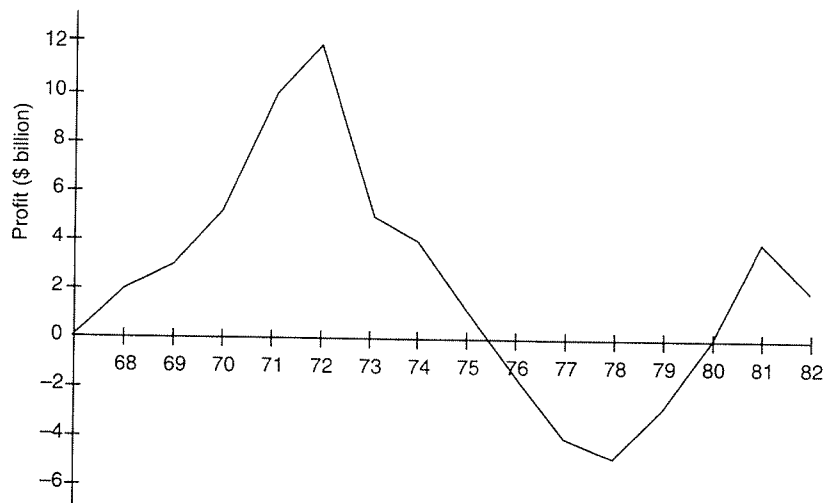
abrupt	sudden	rapid	quick	steady	gradual	slow
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PREPOSITIONS

a rise from £1m to £2m	to increase by 50%
to fall by 30%	an increase of 7.5 per cent over last year

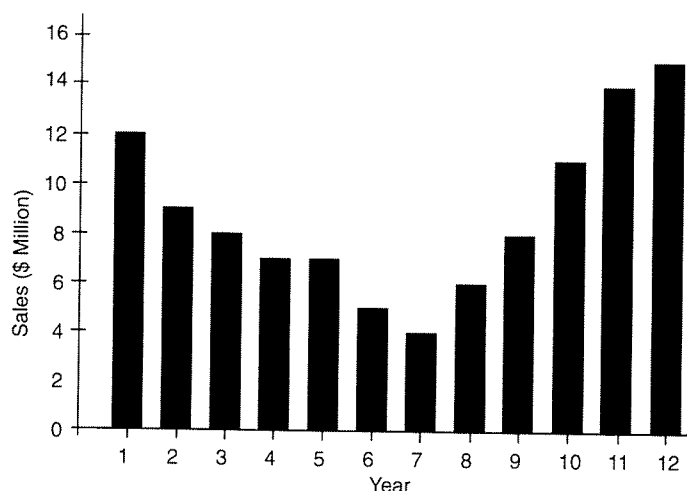
Study the following graphs. Complete the descriptions with information from them and language from the previous page. Several answers are possible. Check your answers with those in the answer key or discuss them with your teacher.

GRAPH 1 Profits 1967–1982



The company came out of the red in 1968 after which there was a (1) in profits every year for four years. Profits reached (2) in 1972, but in 1973, the year of the oil crisis, there was a (3) The (4) trend in 1974 was smaller, but after that profits continued to (5) for four years. The company made a \$5 billion loss in 1978, after which the figures (6) for three years, before (7) again in 1982.

GRAPH 2 Sales Years 1–12



The year after we took over the company sales were good, at \$12m, but the second year they (1) In fact, they dropped (2) 25%. Sales (3) for another two years, (4) for one year, and then (5) again twice. Since then, there has been a (6) growth for five years. In fact in just four years, sales rose (7) \$4m (8) \$14m, an increase (9) 250%.

Rise and Fall

EXERCISE 1

Classify these verbs (from the sentences in the previous exercise), according to whether they mean *rise* or *fall*:

advance	be firm	be strong	be weak
dip	drift	drop	ease
jump	leap	plummet	plunge
rally	rebound	recover	revive
rocket	sink	slip	slump
tumble			

Four of these verbs – all in one line of the box – mean to rise after previously falling. Which are they?

Remember that *rise* and *fall* are irregular verbs: *rise* - *rose* - *risen*; *fall* - *fell* - *fallen*.

Remember to distinguish between *fall* - *fell* - *fallen*, and *feel* - *felt* - *felt*.

As well as the verb *rise*, English also has the verbs *raise* and *arise*.

Rise is an irregular, intransitive verb: *rise* - *rose* - *risen*. Things can rise, but you cannot rise something.

Raise is a regular, transitive verb: *raise* - *raised* - *raised*. People raise things. As well as to increase – to cause to rise – *raise* has lots of other meanings, including to collect capital, to bring up children, etc.

Arise is an irregular, intransitive verb: *arise* - *arose* - *arisen*. It means to happen or occur, or to come into existence. *Problems arose soon after the new chairman took office.*

EXERCISE 2

Complete the following sentences with the appropriate form of *rise*, *raise*, or *arise*:

1. A cash-flow crisis has
2. Last year we issued bonus shares and \$2 million.
3. Prices have already 4% since January, and I think they're going to at the same rate until the end of the year.
4. Retail prices by 7% last year.
5. She her children all on her own while working part-time.
6. The Federal Reserve will probably interest rates by 0.5%.
7. The problem from the lack of quality control.
8. We didn't expect those difficulties to with the new product.