

Talking Statistics in Pairs

A) DESCRIBING

1. The **Talkers** carefully look at their chart and then describe to the **Listeners** what they see. The **Listeners** draw the chart on squared paper. – The **Talkers** must make sure that the **Listeners** draw and write down what they, the **Talkers**, see. The **Listeners** may ask for clarification and the **Talkers** will answer but does not gesture or point.
2. The **Talkers** and the **Listeners** will then compare their two charts, the original and the new one. They correct and complete the new chart together.

B) ANALYSING [‘----’]

Now each of you will write down on their own sheets and into complete sentences what these charts. Use the terms and phrases in the boxes below. Make sure you get the tenses right: e.g. in 1970 ⇨ past tense; since 1970 ⇨ present perfect.

Opening phrases: This chart... / this table / this line graph is about... It was published by... (newspaper, magazine / organisation) in (MM/DD/YY).

Closing phrases: A first look at this chart seems to suggest that... / Looking more closely, however, shows that... / The facts suggest that... / The conclusion to be drawn is...

Line Graphs

	↗ Up?		↘ Or down?	How?	By how much?
↗	to increase, rise, go up , grow by x%; to peak at...	↘	to drop, fall, decrease, go down , shrink by x%, to bottom out at...	...gradually slowly , over time...	...by a (relatively) good, steady, healthy, strong x%
↗↗	to jump , shoot up, explode, soar, sky-rocket...	↘↘	to crash , plummet, dive, collapse,...	...quickly, fast, rapidly, dramatically	... by a lot ; by a surprising, staggering, massive 17%
→→	to remain the same / to flatline, level off, plateau (out) [‘ - - ’] at...	~~~~~	to come in waves / to ebb and flow...	...more or less, evenly	...(by) (very) little , by a very small amount
⌵	to fluctuate , double-dip, zigzag, wobble		wildly , dangerously, worryingly	... by a huge, a shocking, a staggering sum of or amount of... 70%...	
∩	a dent , a dip ; a U-shaped (V-shaped) dip, a downturn followed by an upswing – a trough (rhymes with ‘off’)				

FIGURES		FRACTIONS	
12, 13, 15, 35, 44, 100	twelve, thirteen, fifteen, thirty-five, forty-four, one hundred	1/2, 1/3, 2/3, 3/5	half a..., one third, two thirds, two fifths
<u>Time</u> : month, quarter, year, decade, century, a thousand years (= a millennium), one million, a <u>billion</u> years; <u>for</u> three days, <u>since</u> Thursday			1/12, 1/4, 1, 10, 10 ² , 10 ³ , 10 ⁶ , 10 ⁹ years

TENSES

past	present perfect	present	future
Millennia <u>ago</u> , / in the past , there were few people around.	The number of / the amount of... has been rising <u>for</u> decades / <u>since</u> 1760... Since... there has been an increase in...	Right now the situation looks ... settled / unstable...	Birth rates will probably fall ... / Prices / ... levels will go up. / The sooner..., the better...

EXPLAINING CHARTS



This **line chart** shows how... has changed since 2012; for the last few weeks.

In January prices were still rising by as much as... Back then the **growth rate** slowed down to 1,5% with prices levelling off at x \$ / with prices **falling to a (new) low** of..., when prices **reached a high** (point) of..., a **turning point** in February..., before **falling to a (record) low** of... So, it becomes clear that...; it follows that...

The more... markets worry, **the higher** prices rise...

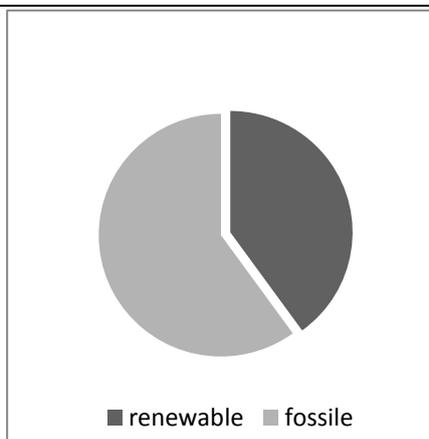
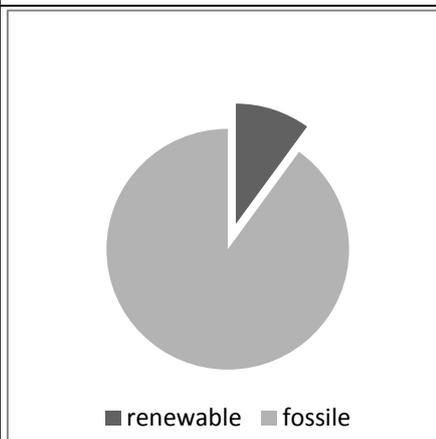
Too little supply / too much demand makes prices rise.

The outlook for the future is... gloomy, bright...

We can **draw the conclusion** that... **the gap between** demand and supply is widening... prices have risen disproportionately...

COMPARISONS

of pie charts and bar diagrams, vertical and horizontal

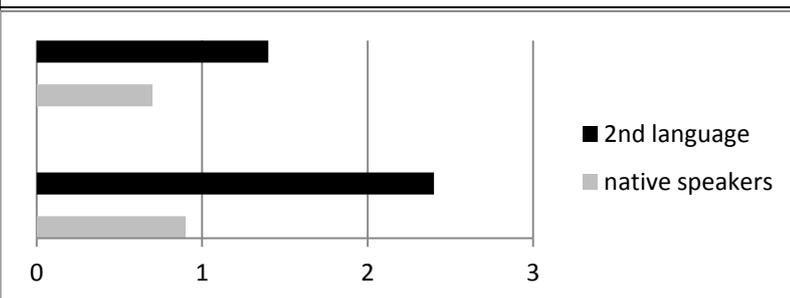


This **pie chart** shows how... **While** in 2000 **the biggest share** of... was..., the share of... will grow / is expected to grow in the future because...

By 2040 the share of... / will provide a **bigger** proportion of global demand **than** expected...

source: Co₂al International

* source: Wishful Thinktank



...This **horizontal bar chart** illustrates the fact that in our globalizing world English is spoken mostly as a second language **whereas** only 60 years ago the majority of speakers were American or British...