

Talking Stats: The Talker and the Listener

A) DESCRIBING

1. The **Talker** looks at a chart very carefully and then describes to the **Listener** what s/he sees. The **Listener** draws the chart on squared paper. – The **Talker** must make sure that the **Listener** draws and writes down what s/he, the **Talker**, sees. The **Listener** may ask for clarification and the **Talker** will answer but does not gesture or point.
2. The **Talker** and the **Listener** compare their two charts, the original and the new one. They correct and/or complete the new chart together.

B) ANALYSING ['----]

Now working in pairs or on your own, find out what these charts mean and put it into complete sentences. 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.

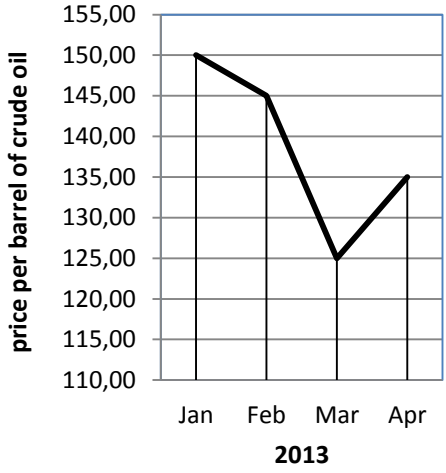
Opening phrases: This chart... / this table / this line graph is about... It was published by... (newspaper, magazine / organisation) in (month, day, year).

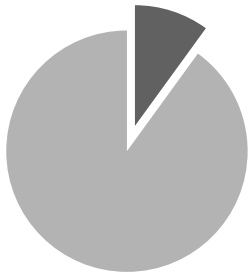
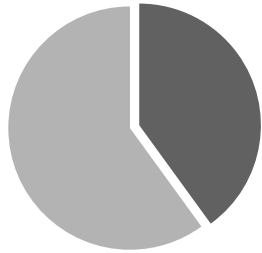
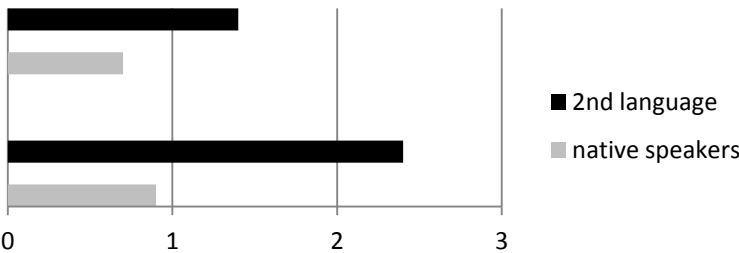
Closing phrases: A first look at this chart seems to suggest that... / Looking more closely, however, shows that... / The facts suggest that... / The conclusion to be drawn is...

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> dec- ades / <u>since</u> 1760... Since... there has been an increase in...	Right now the situation looks... settled / unstable...	Birth rates will proba- bly 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.	
 price per barrel of crude oil Jan Feb Mar Apr 2013		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 dis- proportionately...	

COMPARISONS		This <u>pie chart</u> 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...
of pie charts and bar diagrams, vertical and horizontal		
 ■ renewable ■ fossile	 ■ renewable ■ fossile	
# source: Co ₂ al International * source: Wishful Thinktank		
 ■ 2nd language ■ native speakers		...This <u>horizontal bar chart</u> 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...

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