

Essential Language for Writing Task 1

There are many specific words and phrases used to describe graphs, charts, and diagrams. This vocabulary is especially important when writing task 1 essays.

Much of the language relates to movement, in other words, the language of change for illustrations with **dynamic data**. This means there is a **timeframe** (multiple time periods), and the data and illustrations show trends and patterns.

The other main type of language used is that for **static data** illustrations, where there is **no time frame** but rather only a **single snapshot in time**. Some static illustrations give no mention of time or date.

The following is a list of the sections containing key vocabulary:

- Dynamic data language of change
- Predicting future movement
- Sequential language (for process diagrams)
- Static data language
- Cohesive (flow) devices
- Additional useful vocabulary

Dynamic data language of change

Positive

Climb Increase Rise Recover Improve Grow

- Sales **climbed sharply** over the last two quarters.
- The consumption of pizzas **increased substantially** over the 1970s and 1980s.
- The company experienced a **significant rise** in demand for tablets.
- Consumer confidence **recovered notably** in the third quarter to equal the first.
- The second pie chart shows a **steady improvement** in literacy rates.
- Last month saw a **slight growth** in the number of applications.

Negative

Fall Decline Drop Decrease Deteriorate Reduce

- Research and development spending **fell considerably** by 40% during the period.
- There was a **substantial decline** over the previous three months.
- It then **dropped dramatically** by 66% in the northwest region.
- Government spending has **slightly decreased** by 10% over the past year.
- Attendance figures **continued to deteriorate** for the next three quarters.
- There was a **sudden reduction** in the number of inquiries in June.

Predicting Future Movement

- Project
- Forecast
- Predict
- The line graph **projects a continual** decrease in the coming months.
- As you can see from the chart, it is **forecast** that research and development spending will increase next year.
- It is **predicted** that contract completions will continue to rise throughout next year.

Sequential language examples (to be used with process diagrams)

To begin with
Secondly
Following on

Firstly
After that
In the subsequent stage

First of all
Then
Lastly

The initial stage
Next
Finally

Use the words above to describe the order of activities in a process, for example:

- **First of all**, the fruit is picked by hand; **next**, it is transported to the factory.
- **Then, following on** from this, the bricks must be cooled down.
- **To begin with**, the potatoes are peeled and washed; **after that**, they are transferred to...
- **In the subsequent stage**, the bees leave the hive in order to search for flowers.
- **Finally**, the **last** step in the process is when ...

Language for static illustrations

For static snap shots (such as a single-year pie chart) where there is no timeframe, we use percentages, proportions, comparatives, and superlatives.

A greater proportion of British people use the internet to access news.
Overall, we can see that printed books were by **far the most popular** out of all the categories.
Swedish families had **the highest percentage** of children per couple.
This sector **represents 60%** of the total, **compared with only one tenth for** ...
...it only represents **one quarter, whereas** the other category **accounted for 65%** of the total.
A larger percentage of graduates fell within this category (43%) **when compared to** ...
... whereas cycling to work was **the least popular** way of commuting.
... while art classes saw the **lowest participation** among all four categories.
Meanwhile, 50 to 70 year-olds were the **least interested** in reading e-books.

Cohesive Devices

The following are examples of the type of language that can help with the flow (cohesion) of the essay, including phrases to make comparisons. I **recommend choosing only a few that you prefer and memorizing them well**, rather than attempting to memorize too many and use them incorrectly.

The line graph illustrates information about the attitude towards maths amongst ...

The table compares the rate of applications between ...

In contrast with the other sectors, ...

Overall, it can be clearly seen that the rate of consumption is currently declining ...

In addition, the data demonstrates the fact that

In comparison, another notable trend is the manner in which...

Whereas, the vast majority of English speakers in New Zealand, nearly 5 million, prefer to...

Similarly, most Spanish speakers...

There was a **sharp rise** to 7000, **which was followed by a steady increase for the rest** ...

There was a **slight drop** to 66, **followed by a more significant decrease** to 21.

There was a **sudden and noticeable difference between**...

The number of people **over 60 significantly rose** later on in the century.

The number of young people under the age of 19 **increased substantially** over the given timeframe.

There was a **slight decline in the number** of married people ...

There was a **sharp drop in the number of** Japanese couples starting families.

It **reached a peak** in 2005, after which it **dropped back to the previous 2002 level**.

Sales **fluctuated** for the first 3 years **before levelling off** in 2011.

The statistics show that there has **been a considerable increase** ...

The main difference between the two brands is the ...

Nevertheless, China produces **much more** solar energy, at 42% of the world's total, **than** ...

Applications **began at the same level**...

Admissions to marketing **equaled** accounting **around** 2019 but **greatly differed** for the other years.

The number is approximately the same in both age groups ...

...**while the number** in the older age group **is a mere 1% less**

Spending **was highest on** accommodation costs **at roughly** £600 per week ...

The figures went up just under 10% from the previous year.

... **displayed an increase of around 1 in 10** ...

Additional Useful Vocabulary

Location

Use the words below to describe locations for maps comparison essays.

- directly opposite
- at the north-east corner of the town
- on the right-hand side of
- in close proximity to
- just next to the river/coast
- to the southern part of the
- to the left of
- at the bottom of
- in the bottom right-hand corner of
- around the middle of
- towards the top of
- either side of
- to the rear of
- across from the

Speed of Change.

The following list provides adjectives and adverbs used to describe how **quickly, slowly, extremely**, etc. something moves. Each adjective/adverb pair includes a definition.

- slight - slightly = insignificant/minor
- moderate – moderately = insignificant/minor
- gradual – gradually = slow change
- slow – slowly = small change over time
- sharp - sharply = quick change
- abrupt - abruptly = sudden change
- rapid - rapidly = quick, very fast
- sudden - suddenly = without warning
- dramatic - dramatically = extreme, very big
- level - levelled off = no change
- steady - steadily = no change
- stable - remained stable = no change