

Describing Graphs



Speaking skills

This lesson begins labelling the key features of a graph and naming different graph / chart types. It then provides a practice to see if students can describe a range of different lines (peak, plummet, etc..). This is followed by a fun activity where in pairs students describe and plot the lines on four graphs.

Teacher's Notes

Aim: to develop the students' ability to describe graphical data and become more aware of language related to line graphs.

Level: ***** [B1/ B2/C1/C2] **Lesson Time:** 30 minutes

Describing Graphs Lesson Plan

1. Lead in (10 minutes)

- i. Hand out Language for describing graphs #1 sheet.
- ii. Students do the first activity: 1. Label the basic parts on this graph.
- iii. Feedback using the answer sheet / or individually.
- iv. Students do second activity: 2. Name these different types of graph/charts.
- v. [these graph / chart names have been taken from Microsoft Word]
- vi. Feedback as a whole group.

2. Language for describing graphs. (15 minutes)

- i. Handout Language for describing graphs #2.
- ii. Students label the different lines.
- iii. Encourage students to use adjectives (dramatic) & adverbs (exponentially).
- iv. There are a variety of answers here – use the answer sheet as a guide.

3. Production: Graphs sheet (20 minutes + feedback)

- i. Put the students into pairs.
- ii. Give student A – Student worksheet A and Student B – Student worksheet B
- iii. Explain the students are going to verbally explain their graphs to each other.
- iv. While one student explains their graph, the other student draws / plots the data.
- v. **DO NOT** allow the student to look at the other student's graph.
- vi. Feedback using the other student's sheet.

Teacher Information

Pie charts are best to use when you are trying to compare parts of a whole

Bar / column graphs are used to compare things between different groups or to track changes over time.

Line graphs can also be used to compare changes over the same period of time for more than one group.

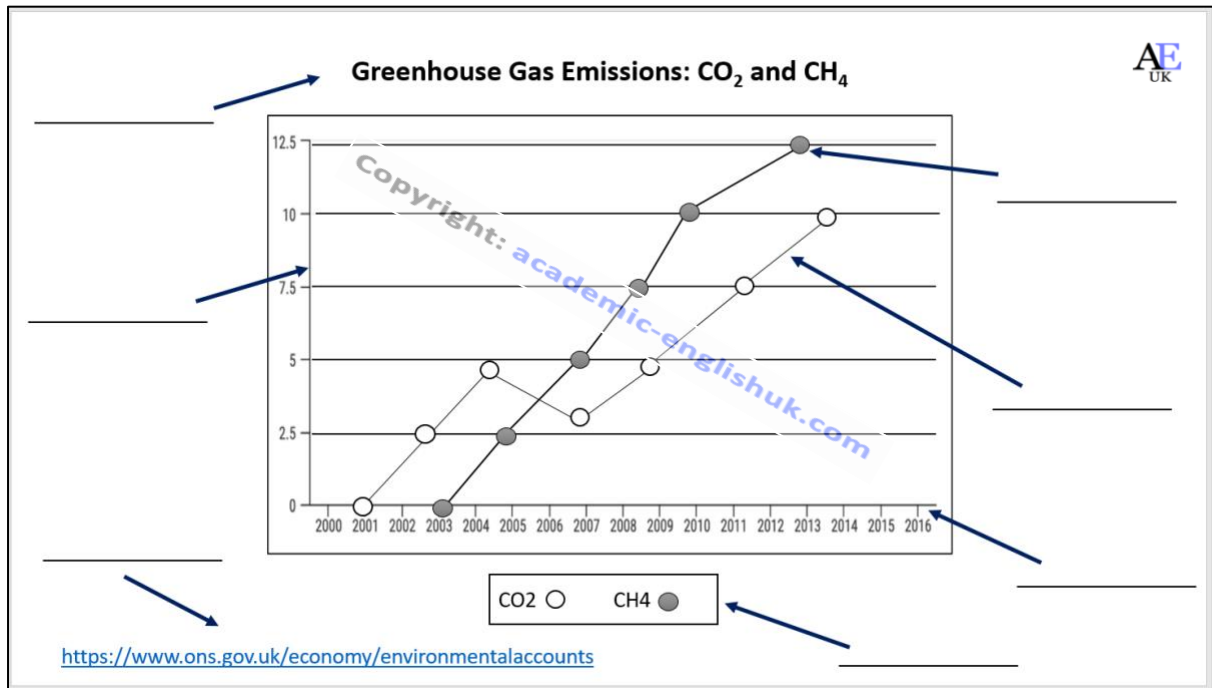
Scatter plots/graphs show how much one variable is affected by another. The relationship between two variables is called their correlation.

Area charts show multiple data series with part-to-whole relationships or for cumulative series of values.

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Language for describing graphs #1

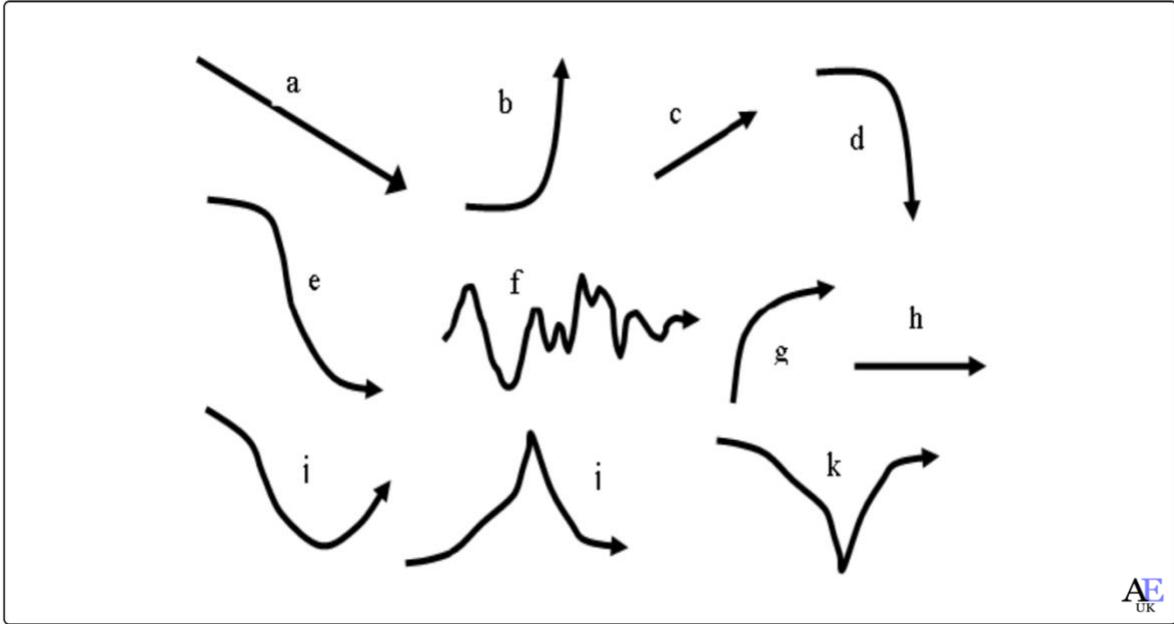
1. Label the basic parts on this graph



2. Name these different types of graph/charts

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Language for describing graphs #2



3. Name the different types of graphical lines

a	
b	
c	
d	
e	
f	
g	
h	
i	
k	

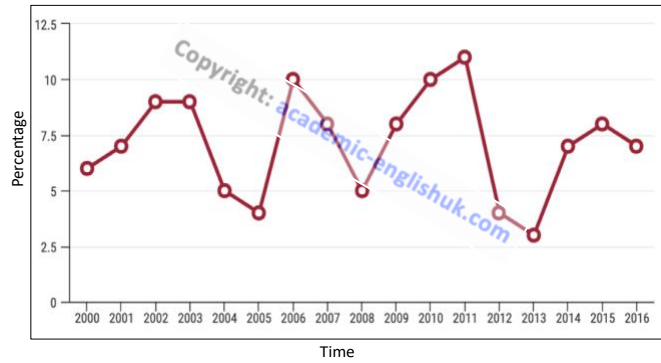
Source & more practice:

<http://online-resources.elc.cityu.edu.hk/ELSS/Resource/Language%20for%20Describing%20Graphs/>

Student Worksheet A

Title: 1 Unemployment in the UK

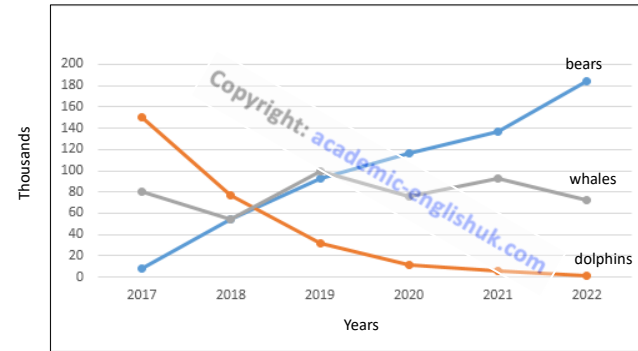
Graph 1



Source: UK Government (2017)

Title: 2 Wildlife population predictions in Canada

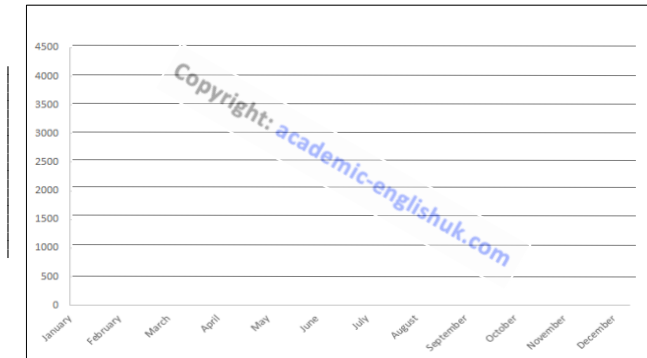
Graph 2



Source: Greenpeace Charity (2019)

Title: 3 _____

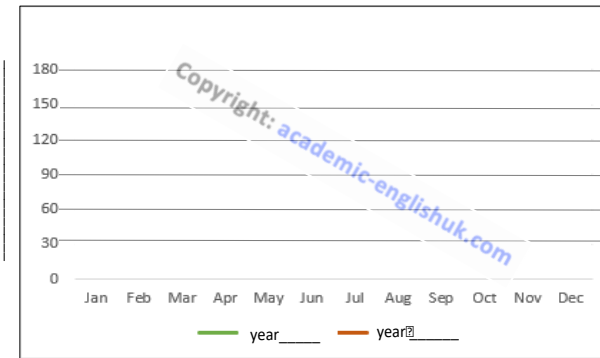
Graph 3



Source: _____

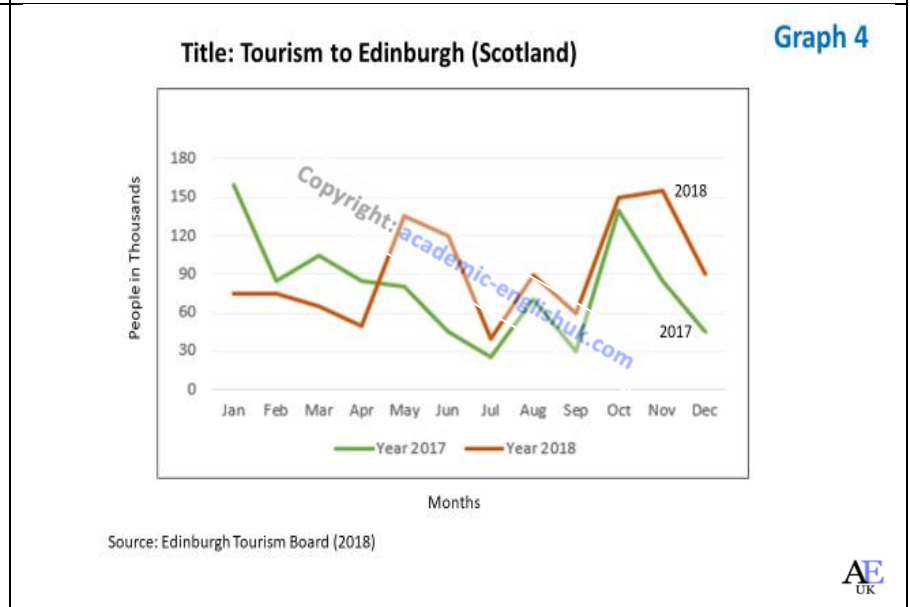
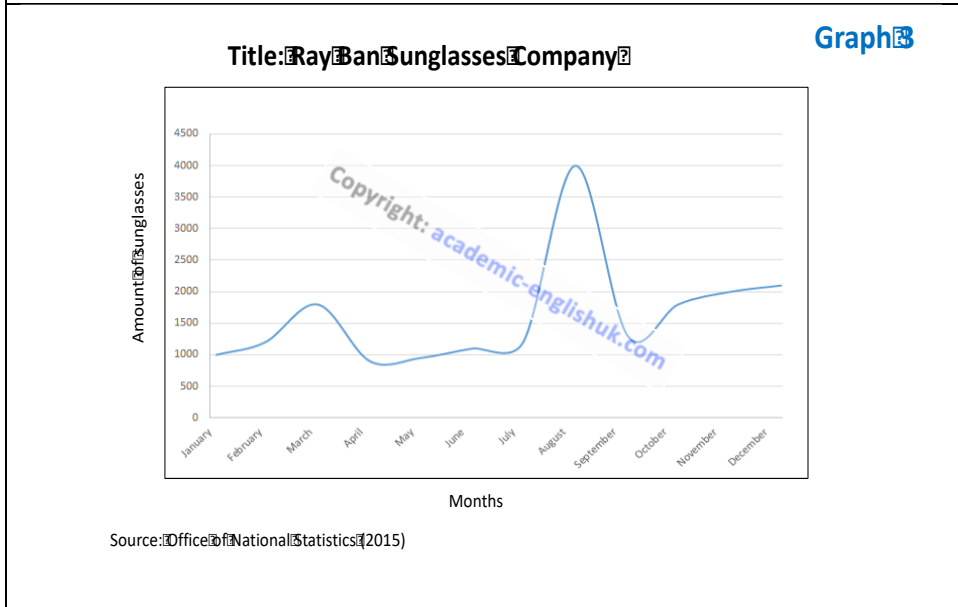
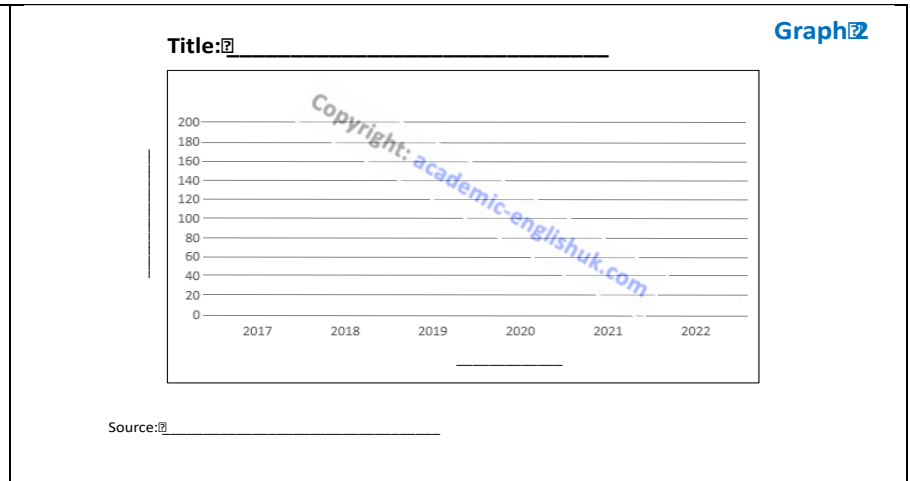
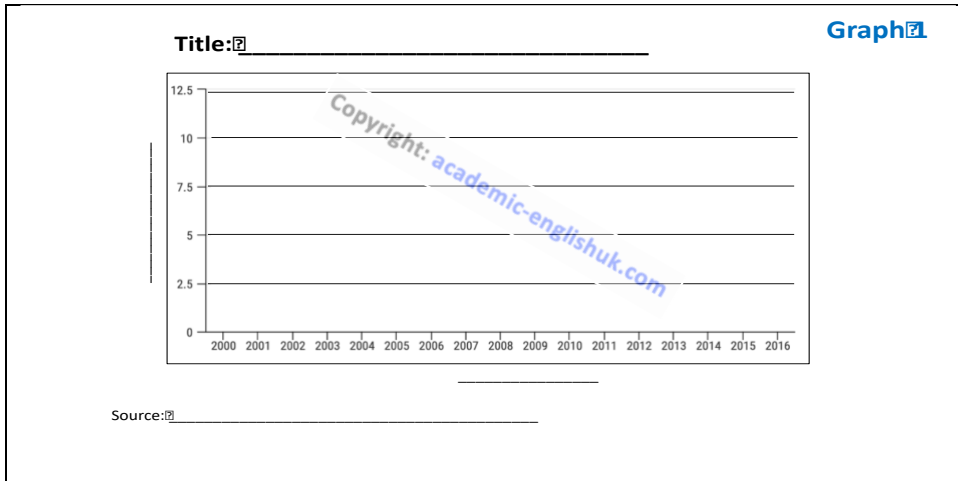
Title: 4 _____

Graph 4

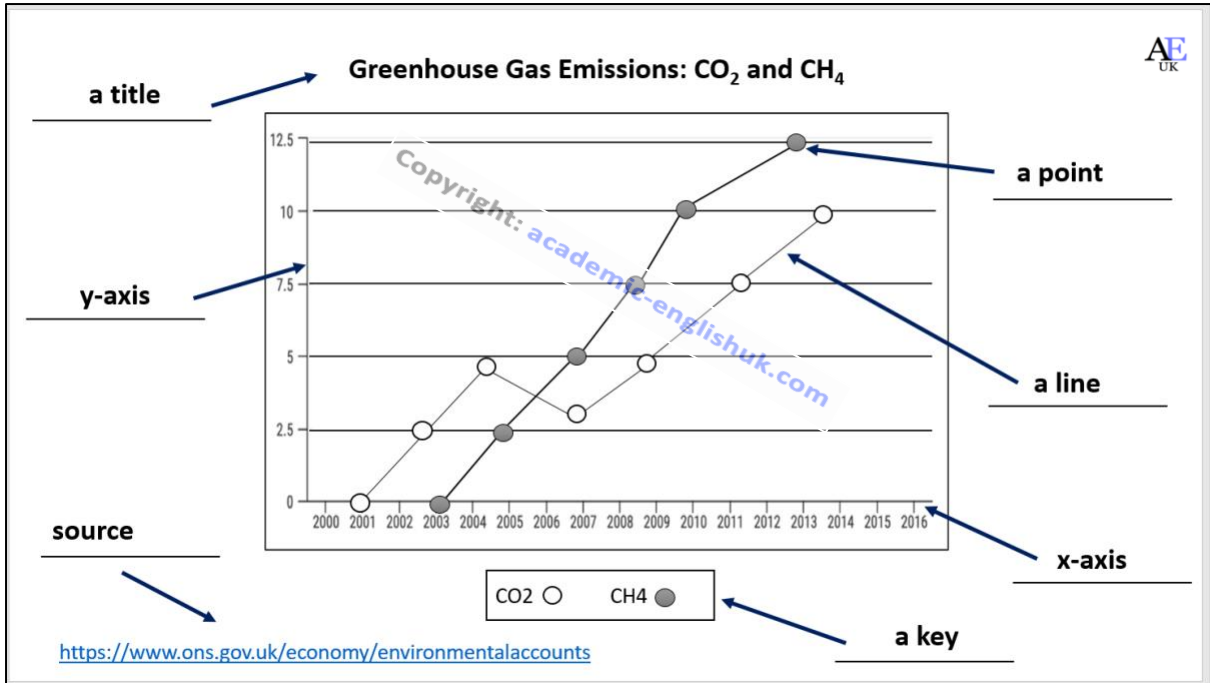


Source: _____

Student Worksheet B



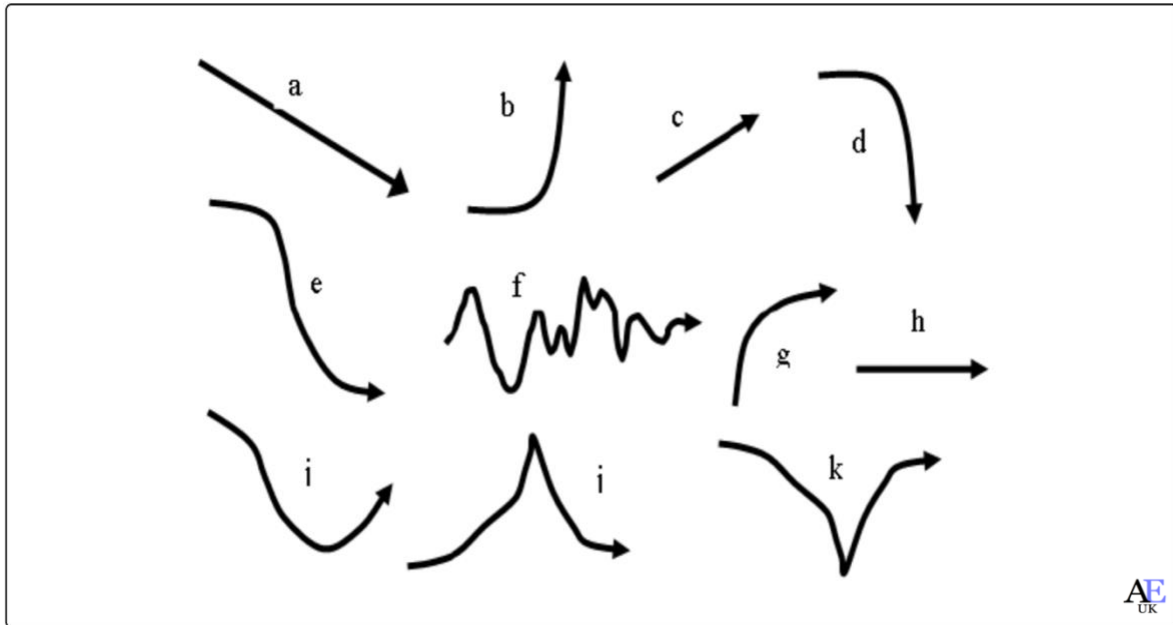
Language for describing graphs ANSWERS



2. Name these different types of graph/charts

<p>1. Pie Chart</p>	<p>2. Line Graph</p>	<p>3. Scatter Plot / Graph</p>
<p>4. Bar Chart</p>	<p>5. Column Chart</p>	<p>6. Area Chart</p>

Language for describing graphs **ANSWERS**



Name the different types of graphical lines **ANSWERS**

a	<i>decrease / decline / depreciate</i>
b	
c	<i>increase / rise / grow / go up /</i>
d	
e	<i>fall / drop /</i>
f	
g	<i>Increase exponentially / gradually rise / grow / steadily curve</i>
h	
i	<i>bottomed out / sank to a trough / the lowest level</i>
J.	
k	

More answers are possible