

Lexical Resource for Graphs

Mastering Vocabulary for Charts, Trends & Data Descriptions



Dynamic vs. Static
Recognise trend types



Trend Verbs & Nouns
Describe rises & falls



Data Accuracy
Prepositions & proportions

What Does "Lexical Resource" Mean?

Lexical Resource accounts for exactly **25% of your total Task 1 score**. The examiner measures three core criteria:

Criterion	What the Examiner Checks
Accurate	The word has the precise context-correct meaning.
Clear	The reader understands your reporting effortlessly.
Varied	You avoid repeating the exact same words continuously.

☰ In Task 1, you need words to:

- ✓ Describe exact data and numbers
- ✓ Show direction of change (upwards/downwards)
- ✓ Compare different categories cleanly
- ✓ Express amounts (halves, quarters, majorities)

Key Rule: Do not memorise long, difficult word lists. A simple correct word is always better than a complex wrong word.

Dynamic vs. Static Graphs

Dynamic Graphs

Shows **change over time**

-  The x-axis shows time (years, months, days).
-  *Example:* A line graph tracking energy consumption from 2000 to 2020.
-  **Focus:** Movement, shifts over periods, going up or down.

Static Graphs

Shows data at **one moment in time**

-  There is **no time movement** across the data.
-  *Example:* A bar chart showing leisure spending for 2024 only.
-  **Focus:** Comparing proportions, sizes, and rankings.

 **Quick Check:** Does the graph show change **over time**? ▪ **YES** → Dynamic (Use change words) | **NO** → Static (Use comparison words)

Vocabulary for Numbers & Figures

Useful Verbs for Numbers

Verb	Context Example
stand at	The figure stood at 25% in 2015.
reach	Car sales reached 500 units in 2010.
be / was	The total volume was 30 million.

MODEL SENTENCE

"The **figure** for renewable energy **stood at** 25%, while the **amount** of coal used was significantly higher."

Essential Nouns

Word	Specific Meaning
figure	A general statistic or number shown on graph.
number	Used for countable items (e.g. people, vehicles).
amount	Used for uncountable items (e.g. water, energy).
proportion	A part of the whole total (often percentages).

Expressing Approximate Numbers

You do not always need to cite exact numbers. Use approximation modifiers to write more fluid sentences:

Modifier	Example Sentence
about / around	Around 40% of students selected online learning.
approximately	Approximately 200 visitors attended the event.
roughly	Roughly a third of respondents disagreed.

Conversion Tip 1: 49% → **just under half**

Modifier	Example Sentence
just over	Just over 40% chose Option A (e.g., 41%).
just under	Just under half supported the change (e.g., 49%).
nearly / almost	Nearly 75% of household energy came from gas.

Conversion Tip 2: 26% → **slightly more than a quarter**

Fractions, Percentages & Proportions

Percentage to Fraction Conversion

Percentage	Useful Expression
50%	half / one in two
33%	a third / one in three
25%	a quarter / one in four
75%	three quarters
20%	a fifth / 10% = a tenth

Proportion Vocabulary

- > **the majority of:** More than 50%
- > **a minority of:** Less than 50%
- > **account for:** Gas *accounted for* 40% of the total.
- > **make up:** Renewables *made up* the smallest share.

Before: "50% of people chose tea."
Improved: "**Half of the participants** chose tea."

Dynamic Graphs: Upward Trends

Verbs for Going Up

Moderate Increase	Strong / Fast Increase
increase	soar
rise	rocket
grow	surge
climb / go up	—

Nouns for Going Up

Matching Nouns:

an increase ▪ a rise ▪ a growth ▪ an upward trend

GRAMMAR STRUCTURES

Verb: Sales **increased** from 100 to 500 in 2010.

Noun: There was a sharp **rise** in sales in 2010.

Dynamic Graphs: Downward Trends

Verbs for Going Down

Moderate Decrease	Strong / Fast Decrease
decrease	plunge
fall	plummet
drop	—
decline / go down	—

Nouns & Opposites

Matching Nouns:

a decrease ▪ a fall ▪ a drop ▪ a decline ▪ a downward trend

 **Tip:** Learn opposite pairs together:
rise ↔ fall | increase ↔ decrease

Modifying Trends: Degree of Change

Combine **Adjective + Noun** OR **Verb + Adverb** to describe the pace and scale of movement:

Size / Speed of Change	Adjective + Noun Pattern	Verb + Adverb Pattern
Big & Fast	a dramatic rise	rose dramatically
Big	a significant increase	increased significantly
Medium	a moderate growth	grew moderately
Small	a slight drop	dropped slightly
Slow & Steady	a gradual fall	fell gradually

Caution: Do not use high-intensity words like *sharply* or *dramatically* for minor shifts. Match the word to the data scale.

Fluctuation, Stability & Peaks

Fluctuation

Up and down continuously

Verb: fluctuate

Noun: a fluctuation

"Prices **fluctuated** between \$10 and \$20."

— Stability

No major change

remain **stable / steady**

level off: stop changing

"Figures **levelled off** at 80%."

Highs & Lows

Extremes in data

High: peak at / reach a peak of

Low: hit a low of

"The figure **peaked at** 75% in 2015."

Comparative Vocabulary

More
higher than ▪ greater than ▪ more than

Less
lower than ▪ less than ▪ fewer than*

Same
the same as ▪ equal to ▪ similar to

Describing the Size of the Difference

Small Difference	Large Difference
slightly higher than	much higher than
marginally lower than	considerably higher than
almost the same as	significantly lower than

*Note: Use "fewer" for countable items (people, cars); use "less" for uncountable amounts.

Vocabulary for Static Graphs

When there is **no time change**, structure your paragraph around rankings, proportions, and key distinctions:

- ★ **the highest / lowest figure**
- ★ **the largest / smallest proportion**
- ★ **the most popular / least popular**
- ★ **ranked first / second**

Static Graph Sample Sentences

"Cycling was the **most popular** activity, while swimming registered the **lowest figure**."

"The **largest proportion** of students travelled by bus, whereas only a minor fraction walked."

Vocabulary by Chart & Graph Type



Line Graph

Focus on trend change

- rise / fall
- peak / level off
- overtake



Bar Chart

Focus on comparison

- higher / lower
- rank highest
- compared to



Pie Chart

Focus on shares

- proportion / share
- account for
- make up



Table

Focus on data figures

- figure / amount
- approximately
- respectively

Prepositions in Data Reporting

Correct Preposition Usage

Prep.	Function & Example
at	Specific point: <i>Sales stood at 500.</i>
to	End point reached: <i>It increased to 800.</i>
by	Amount of difference: <i>It rose by 300.</i>
of	Peak/Value tag: <i>Reached a peak of 1,000.</i>

Common Errors to Avoid

Incorrect	Correct Form
Increased in 50%	Increased by 50%
A peak in 1,000	A peak of 1,000
Rose until 800	Rose to 800

Common Mistakes & Final Takeaways

⚠ Watch Out For:

- ✗ **Confusing Word Forms:** Don't write "*a sharp rose*" (Use: *a sharp rise* or *rose sharply*).
- ✗ **Repeating "%":** Substitute with fractions, proportions, and active verbs.
- ✗ **Informal Tone:** Avoid informal terms like "*went up like crazy*" or "*huge jump*".

📋 4-Step Checklist

1. **Identify graph type:** Dynamic (time) vs Static (no time).
2. **Vary structure:** Alternate between [Adj + Noun] and [Verb + Adv].
3. **Rephrase percentages:** Deploy fractions & approximations.
4. **Check prepositions:** Audit *at*, *to*, *by*, *of* thoroughly.