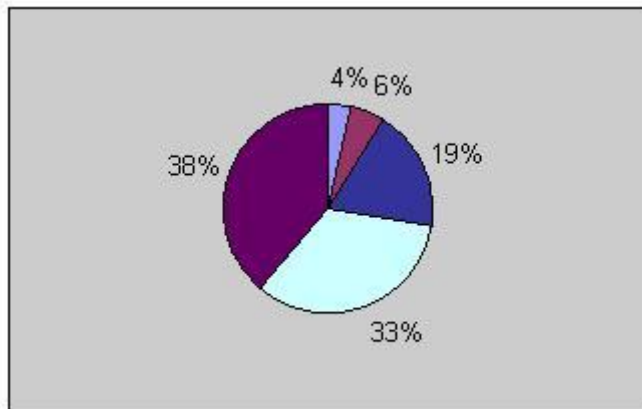# Describing charts and graphs.
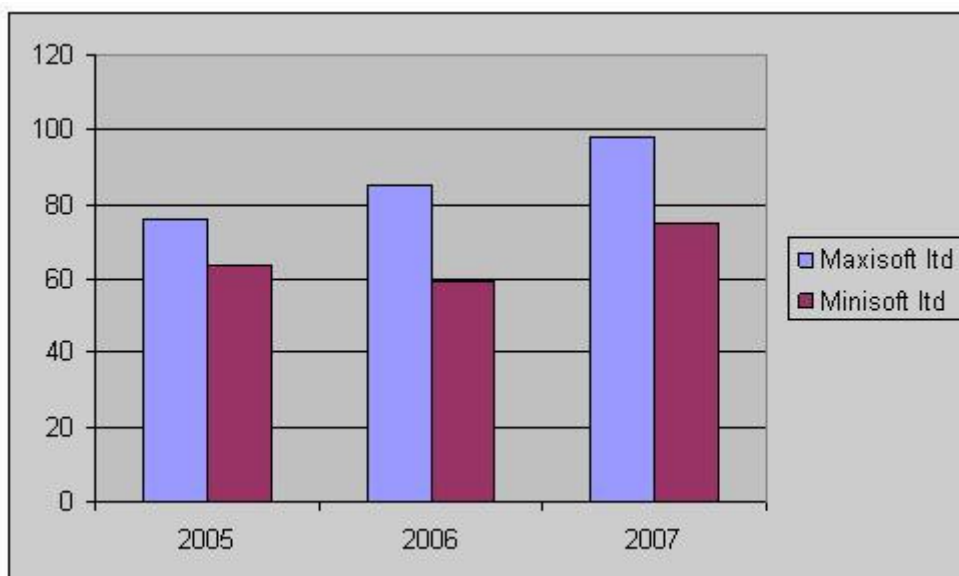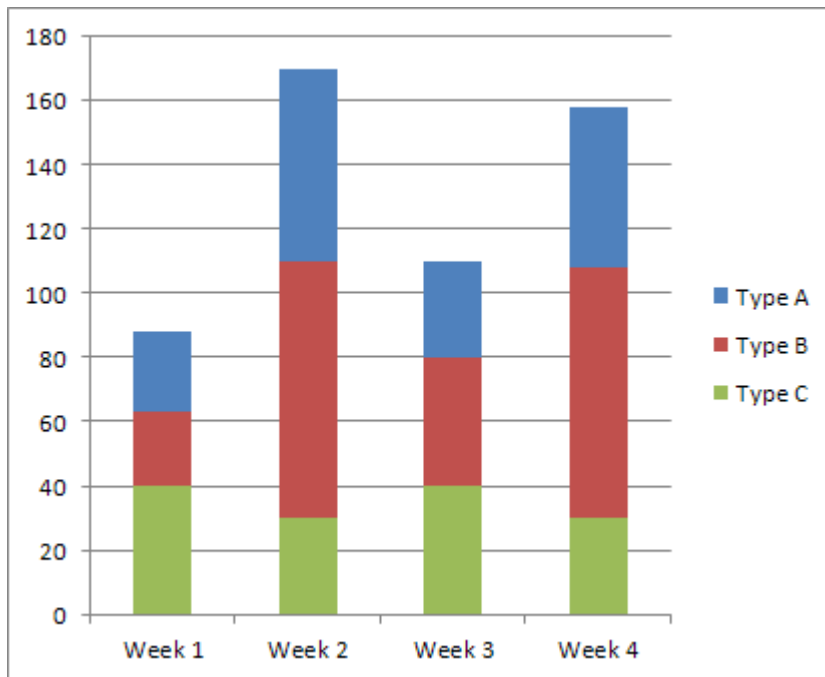
1. Types of chart, graphs.

- _____ chart

A _____ is used to show_____. The "_____"
or sectors represent each group.
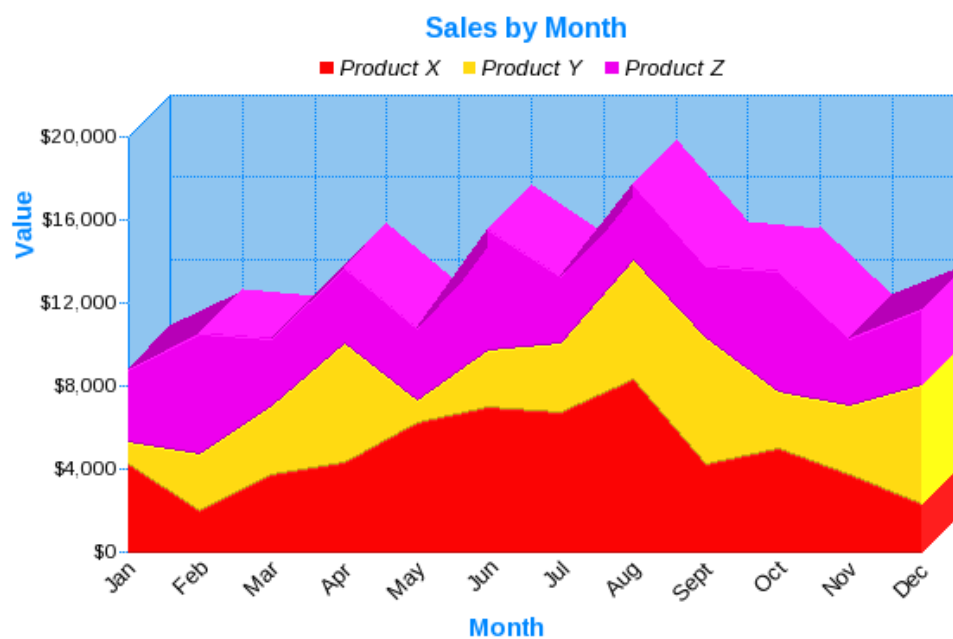
- _____ chart

A _____ is used to _____ different sets of information
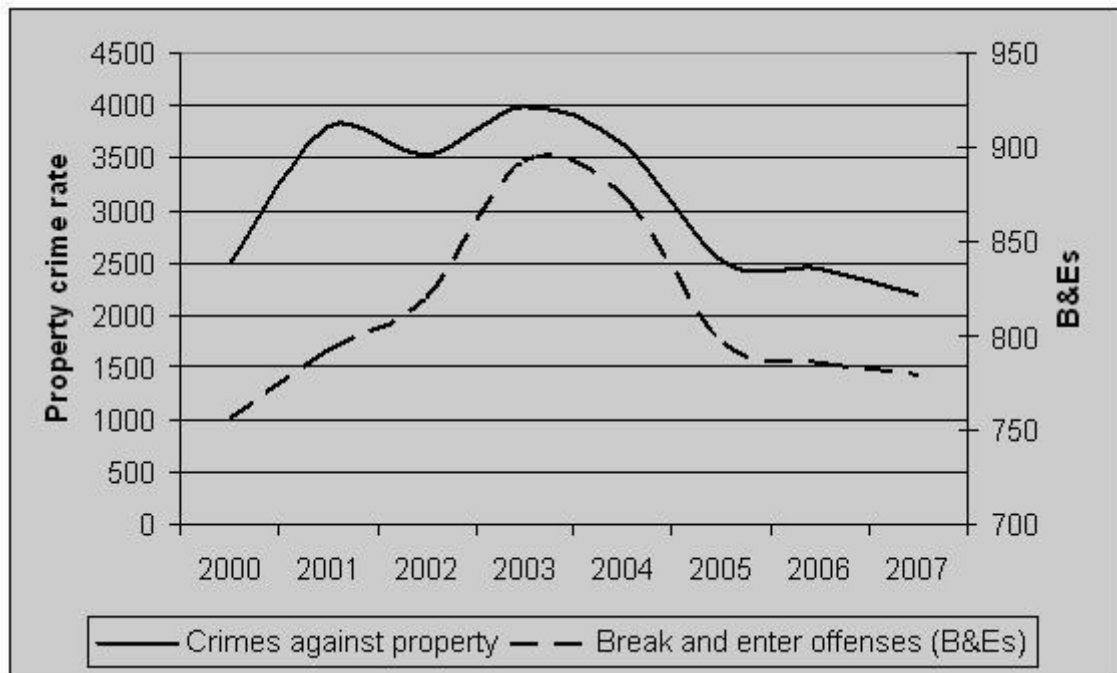on two axis: x-axis (_____) and y-axis (_____)

- _____ graph

- _____ chart

Sales by Month

■ *Product X*   ■ *Product Y*   ■ *Product Z*

- graph

A _____ is most useful for showing _____.

And, by the way…

2. What is a trend?

A trend is a general tendency or direction.

an upward/downward trend

3. Useful vocabulary for describing graphs

Helpful words and phrases for describing graphs

- **UP – Verbs** rise, increase, grow, go up, improve, jump, surge, shoot up , soar, rocket
- **UP – Nouns** a rise, an increase, growth, an upward/rising/increasing trend, an improvement, a jump, a surge
- **DOWN – Verbs** fall, decrease, drop, decline, go down, slump, plummet
- **DOWN – Nouns** a fall, a decrease, a decline, a downward/falling/decreasing trend, a slump
- **NO CHANGE – Verbs** remain stable/constant, stay at the same level, stabilize
- **FREQUENT CHANGE – Verb** fluctuate
- **FREQUENT CHANGE – Noun –** fluctuation
- **AT THE TOP – Verbs** reach a peak, peak., reach its/their highest point
- **AT THE BOTTOM – Verbs** reach/hit a low (point), hit/reach its/their lowest point

Adjectives:

- dramatic, considerable, sharp, significant, moderate, slight, sudden, rapid, steady, gradual, slow

Adverbs:

- dramatically, considerably, sharply, significantly, moderately, slightly, suddenly, rapidly, steadily, gradually, slowly

Prepositions:

- a rise *from* £725 *to* £825
- to increase *by* 2.1 %
- an increase *of* 2.1 % *in* the crime rate

https://www.ixl.com/math/algebra-1/interpret-bar-graphs-line-graphs-and-histograms

List with phrases to describe charts

- The pie chart is about ...
- The bar chart deals with ...

- The line graph (clearly) shows ...

- The slices of the pie chart compare the ...

- The chart is divided into ... parts.

- It highlights ...

- ... has the largest (number of) ...

- ... has the second largest (number of) ...

- ... is as big as ...

- ... is twice as big as ...

- ... is bigger than ...

- more than ... per cent ...

- only one third ...

- less than half ...

- The number ... increases/goes up/grows by ...

- The number ... decreases/goes down/sinks by ...

- The number ... does not change/remains stable

- I was really surprised/shocked by the ...

- So we can say ...

Use of Tenses

Mind the correct use of tenses when describing a chart. If the chart deals with facts in the present (as in our example), use the **Simple Present**, if the facts are the past, then use the **Simple Past**. If there is a connection between the past and the present, use the **Present Perfect**.

How to describe a chart

With the following examples I would like to show you how charts are described. Mind the three parts and do not repeat the global message in the conclusion.

A Pets in Year 7 at a school

We have chosen the pie chart because we think it shows the number of pets in Year 7 best.

Pets in Year 7

2 ■ 7CS
3
8 ■ 7HK
16 ■ 7GI
■ 7VR

1 Introduction

Here you say what the diagram is about. Mind the title of it and do not forget to include the source.

The pie chart is about the pets in Year 7. The chart is divided into 5 parts. It is taken from ...

2 Message of the diagram

The largest number of pets are in form   . There are   pets.
The second largest number of pets are in form   . There are   pets.
So there are more than twice as many pets in form   .
The chart shows that there are only   pets in form   and   in form   .

3 Conclusion

So, we can say that the most pets of Year 7 are in form   and the least in form   .
There are more than   per cent of all the pets in one form - form   .

To describe diagrams or any other type of graphs as clearly as possible, you should name each visual element. For example:
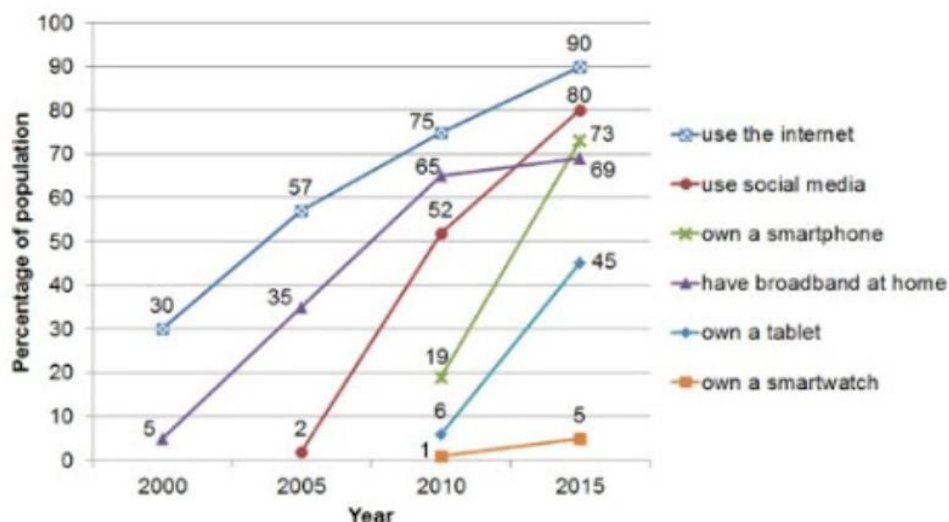
- The vertical axis shows…
- The horizontal axis represents…
- This curve illustrates…
- The solid line shows…
- The shaded area describes…
- This colored segment is for…
- The red bar…

How to describe line graphs

This type of charts converts information into points on a grid that is connected with a line to represent trends, changes, or relationship between objects, numbers, dates, etc. These lines show movement over time affected by the increase or decrease in the key factors.

To express the movement of the line, you should use appropriate *verbs, adjectives, and adverbs* depending on the kind of action you need to show (see trend vocabulary)

The graph shows information about technology usage in the UK over time. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.

1. Presentation of the document: type of graph, what is it about (without copying the title), period and unit)

2. General description of the data - overall trend.

3. analysis of each data (you can group data if the trend is similar)

- Use specifics adverbs and adjectives to comment on how big changes are. Often collocate with verbs and nouns for trends.

- Make calculations (%, multiplier…)

4. Conclusion (short sentence to summarize the analysis)
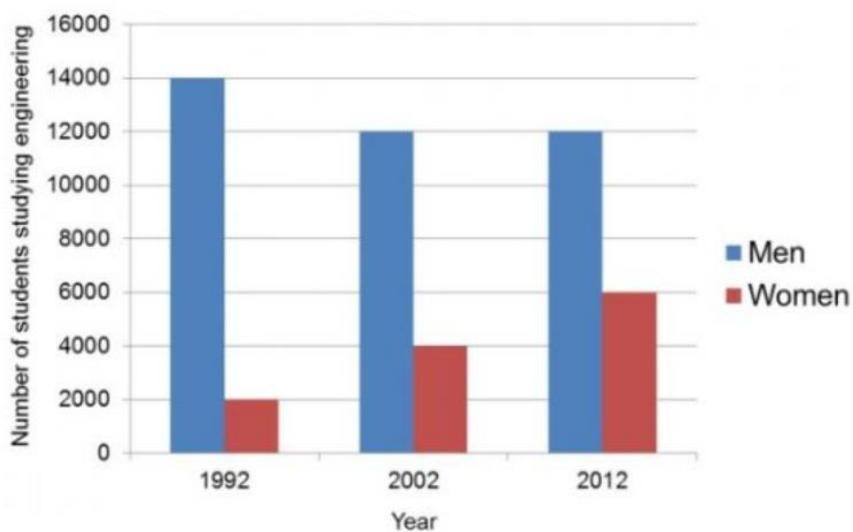
How to describe bar graphs

Bar graphs transform the data into separate bars or columns. Generally, this type of visuals has categories on the x-axis and the numbers on the y-axis. So, you can compare statistical data between different groups.

The bar graphs show which category is the largest and which is the smallest one. Each group should be independent so that the changes in one do not influence others. The bars or columns can be drawn either vertically or horizontally, as it doesn't make any difference.

The words used to describe bar chart are pretty like ones used for the line charts.

The bar chart below shows the number of men and women studying engineering at Australian universities.

Summarise the information in the chart by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.
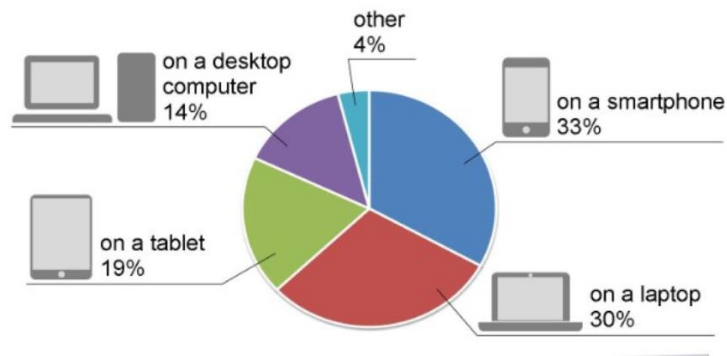
How to describe pie charts

The pie chart is primarily used to illustrate how different parts make up a whole. The best way to present your data in a pie chart is to compare the categories with each other. The following comparison words can be used interchangeably:

- to compare
- compared to
- as opposed to
- versus
- more than
- the majority of
- only a small monitory
- greater than
- less than

Here we have an example of a pie chart that represents how internet users aged 16+ prefer to browse the web:

Pour s'entraîner :

https://www.indiabix.com/data-interpretation/questions-and-answers/