

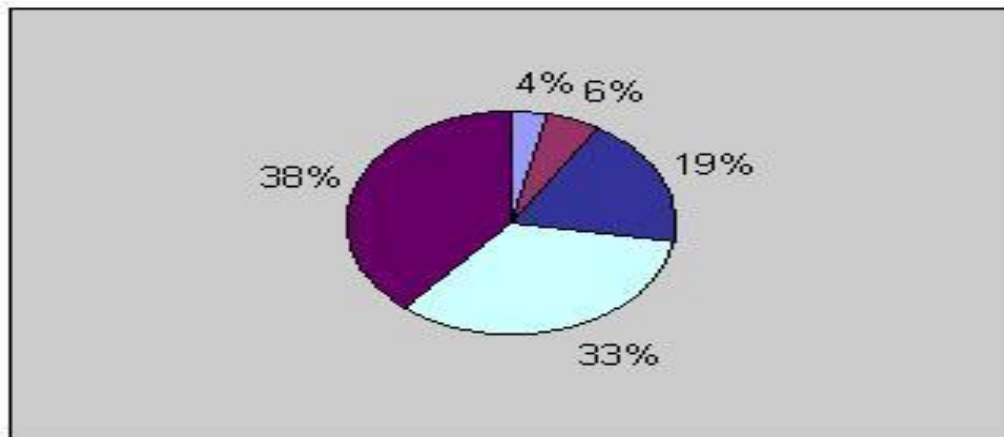
Analysing Charts/graphs

In this unit we look at the language used to describe charts and graphs. Graphs or charts help people understand data quickly. You can use them to make a comparison or show a trend.

At the end of this unit you should know some useful vocabulary for describing charts and graphs.

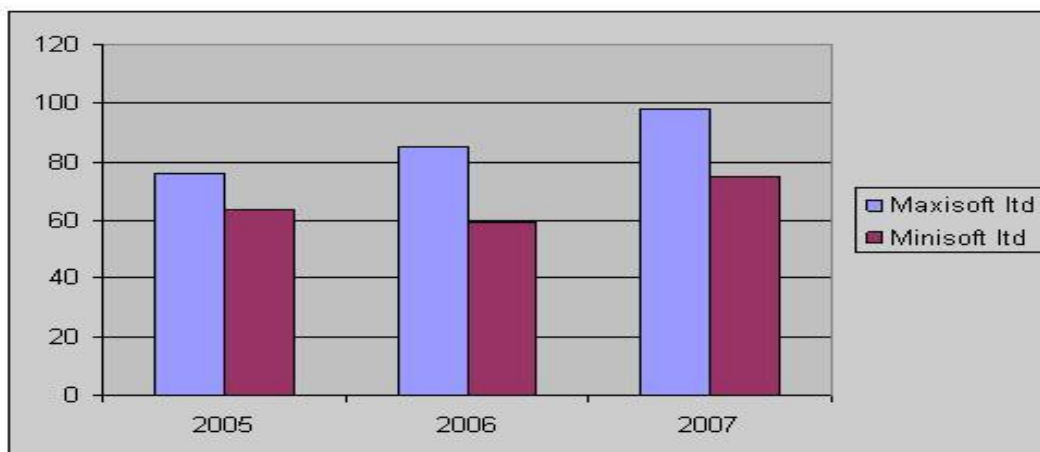
1. Types of chart.

- **Pie chart**



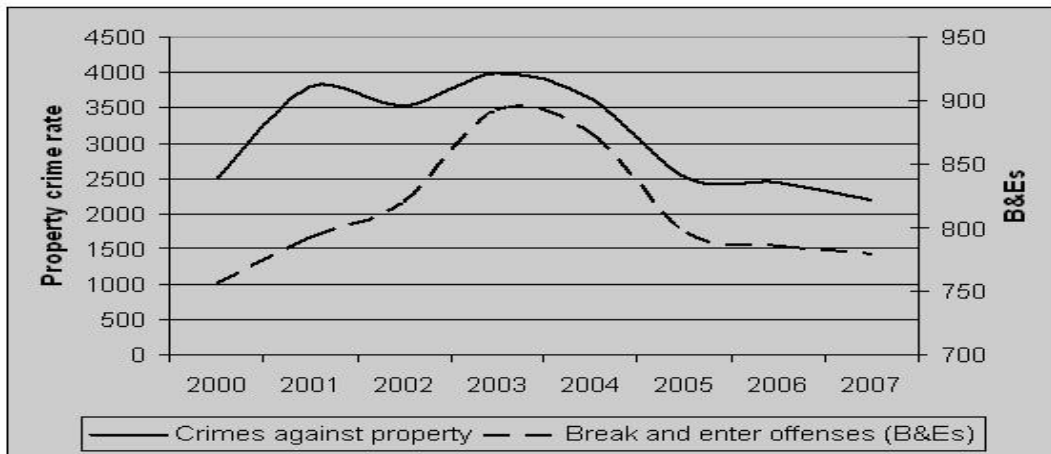
A pie chart is used to show percentages

- **Bar chart**



A bar chart is used to compare different sets of information

Line graph



A line graph is most useful for showing trends (trend is a general tendency or direction., for example *an upward/downward trend*)

3. 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

CHANGE

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 %

Tips for writing line graph

When you are describing a chart or graph, you are actually describing the patterns in the data. Before you begin to write, spend one or two minutes noticing the different features of the visual information.

To help identify the patterns, you need to look for the

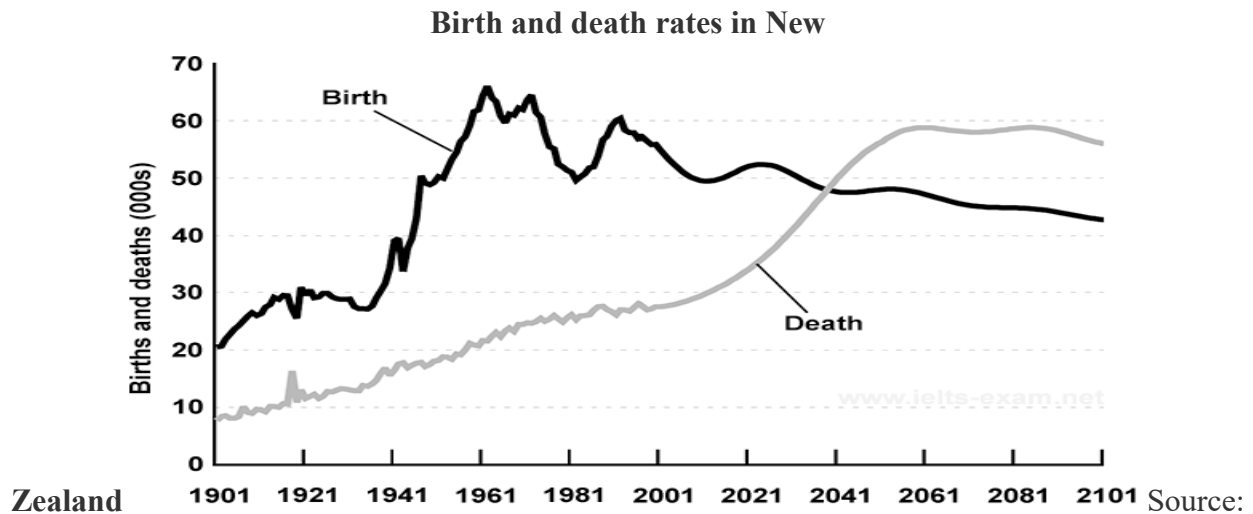
- peaks (high points) and troughs (low points)
- periods when the figures remain steady (show little or no change)
- periods when the figures fluctuate (show a lot of changes)

Line Graph: Sample Answer

The graph below gives information about changes in the birth and death rates in New Zealand between 1901 and 2101.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/population/estimates_and_projections/changing-face-of-nzs-population.aspx

Model answer

The graph shows changes in the birth and death rates in New Zealand since 1901, and forecasts trends up until 2101.

Between 1901 and the present day, the birth rate has been consistently higher than the death rate. It stood at 20,000 at the start of this period and increased to a peak of 66,000 in 1961. Since then the rate has fluctuated between 65 and 50 thousand and it is expected to decline slowly to around 45,000 births by the end of the century.

In contrast, the death rate started below 10,000 and has increased steadily until the present time. This increase is expected to be more rapid between 2021 and 2051 when the rate will probably level off at around 60,000, before dropping slightly in 2101.

Overall, these opposing trends mean that the death rate will probably overtake the birth rate in around 2041 and the large gap between the two levels will be reversed in the later part of this century.

Bar Graph: Sample Answer

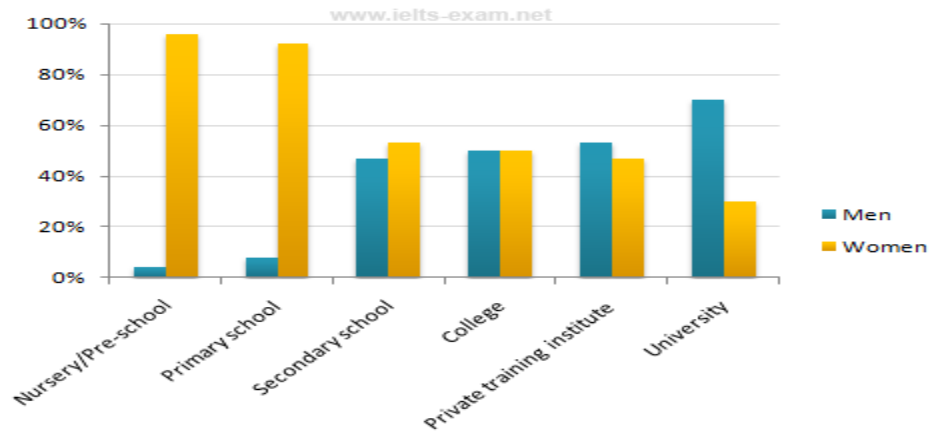
Tips for writing bar graph

- Start by saying what exactly the graph shows and the time period
- Describe the changes as precisely as you can. Use data and numbers from the bar graph
- Compare the information. Talk about the similarities or differences between the graphs shown
- Conclude by saying what the main changes or trends are

The chart below shows the percentage of male and female teachers in six different types of educational setting in the UK in 2010.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



Model answer

The bar chart gives information about the gender of teachers in six types of educational institutions in the UK in 2010. It shows what percentage of teachers was male and what percentage was female.

Women dominated the teaching profession in primary education, but less so at lower and upper secondary education. It was particularly true of nursery school, where the share of female teachers was above 95%. Similarly one-sided was the situation in primary school, where over 90% of teachers were also female.

At secondary and upper secondary level this pattern was less pronounced, where there were nearly equal proportions of male and female teachers. On the other hand, male teachers outnumbered female teachers in high-level education, where the proportion of men was twice that for women.

Overall, the higher the level of education, the more male teachers dominated, and the reverse occurred with respect to female teachers.

Pie Chart: Sample Answer

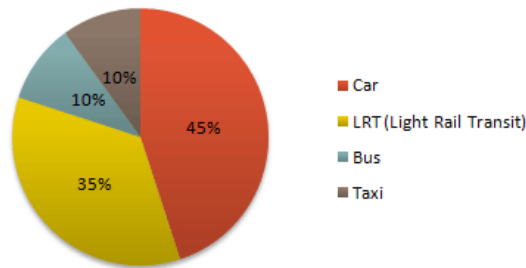
Tips for writing pie chart

- Start by saying what exactly the pie chart shows. Avoid copying words in the question- use other words with similar meanings
- Mention the survey question that participants answered
- Explain what the different sections of the pie chart refer to
- Describe the key findings shown in the chart

The diagrams below give information on transport and car use in Edmonton.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



People's reasons for using the car in city

Commuter to work	55%
Shopping	15%
Leisure activities	15%
Taking children to school	40%
Business	45%

Model answer

The table shows the reason why people in Edmonton use their cars in the city and the pie chart explains what type of transport people prefer to use most of the time.

Looking at the pie chart first, it is clear that the car is the most popular means of transport in this city. 45% of the people say that they prefer to commute by car. The second most popular form of transport is the LRT, while busses and taxis are the main means of transport for the rest of the people.

The table gives more detailed information about why people use their cars. Surprisingly, 55% of the people need to commute to work by car. Cars are also used a lot for taking children to school or business purposes. Only 15% of drivers are doing their shopping and, similarly, 15% need to travel by car for leisure.

Overall, people in Edmonton make good use of alternative methods of transport but there is a heavy dependence on cars for work.