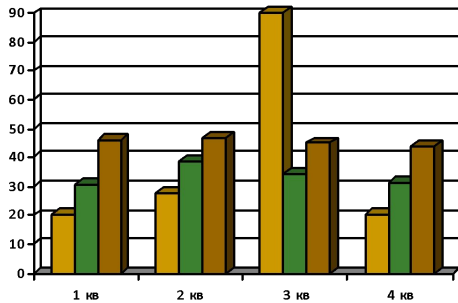

IELTS Writing Part 1

Describing Graphs

20 minutes / 150 words

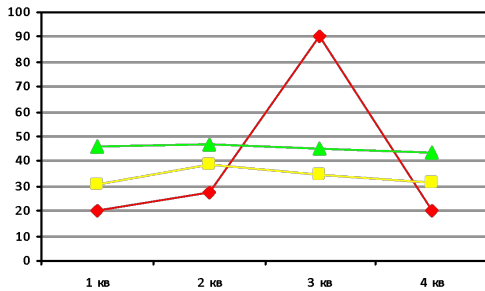
General Overview

Types



Bar chart

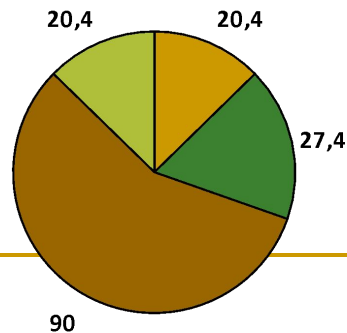
**Flow chart /
process diagram /
life cycle / map**



Line graph

Table

	2012	2013
Play games	17	40
Search Internet	41	73
Play music	12	18



Pie chart

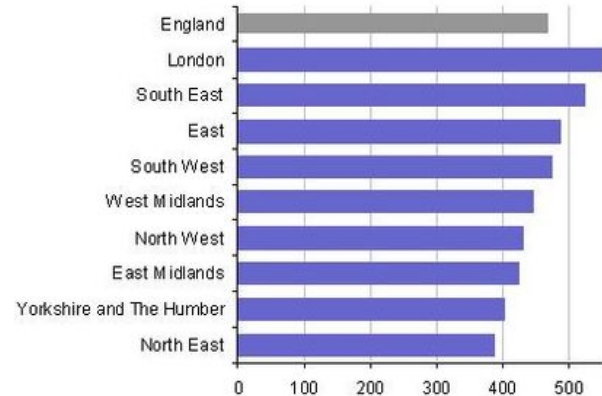
Structure

- Introduction: no numbers
 - 1 sentence – give a general idea.
What? Where? When? Paraphrase the task.
 - (optional) Summary/Overview: no numbers
 - 2 sentences – “big picture”/main features/overall trend
 - Paragraph 1: Trend 1
 - Paragraph 2: Trend 2
 - (optional) Summary/Overview
-

Structure - example

- **Introduction:**

The bar chart shows average weekly spending by households different areas of England between 2007 and 2009



- **(optional) Summary/Overview:**

Households in the south of the country spent more on average than those in the north

Average weekly spending by households was highest in London and lowest in the North East

- **Paragraph 1: Trend 1:**

English households spent on average around £470 per week. The average expenditure for households in London was about £560 per week, almost £100 more than the overall figure for England.

Households in the South East, East and South West also spent more than the national average.

Weekly household spending figures for those three regions were approximately £520, £490 and £480 respectively.

- **Paragraph 2: Trend 2**

Similar levels of household spending were seen in the West Midlands, the North West and the East Midlands, at about £430 to £450 per week. In the region of Yorkshire and the Humber, households spent approximately £400 per week, while expenditure in the North East was around £10 per week lower than this.

It is noticeable that average weekly expenditure by households in the North East was around £80 less than the national average, and around £170 less than the London average.

Some advice

- Don't give any opinions (I think, I feel, as you can see, etc.)
- Separate paragraphs clearly
- Don't write about everything. Pick the main points
- Don't describe items separately. Group similar things together and try to compare them
- Make sure you write about the idea. Don't use shorthand

NO: Car was the highest form of transport

YES: People travelled more miles by car than by any other form of transport

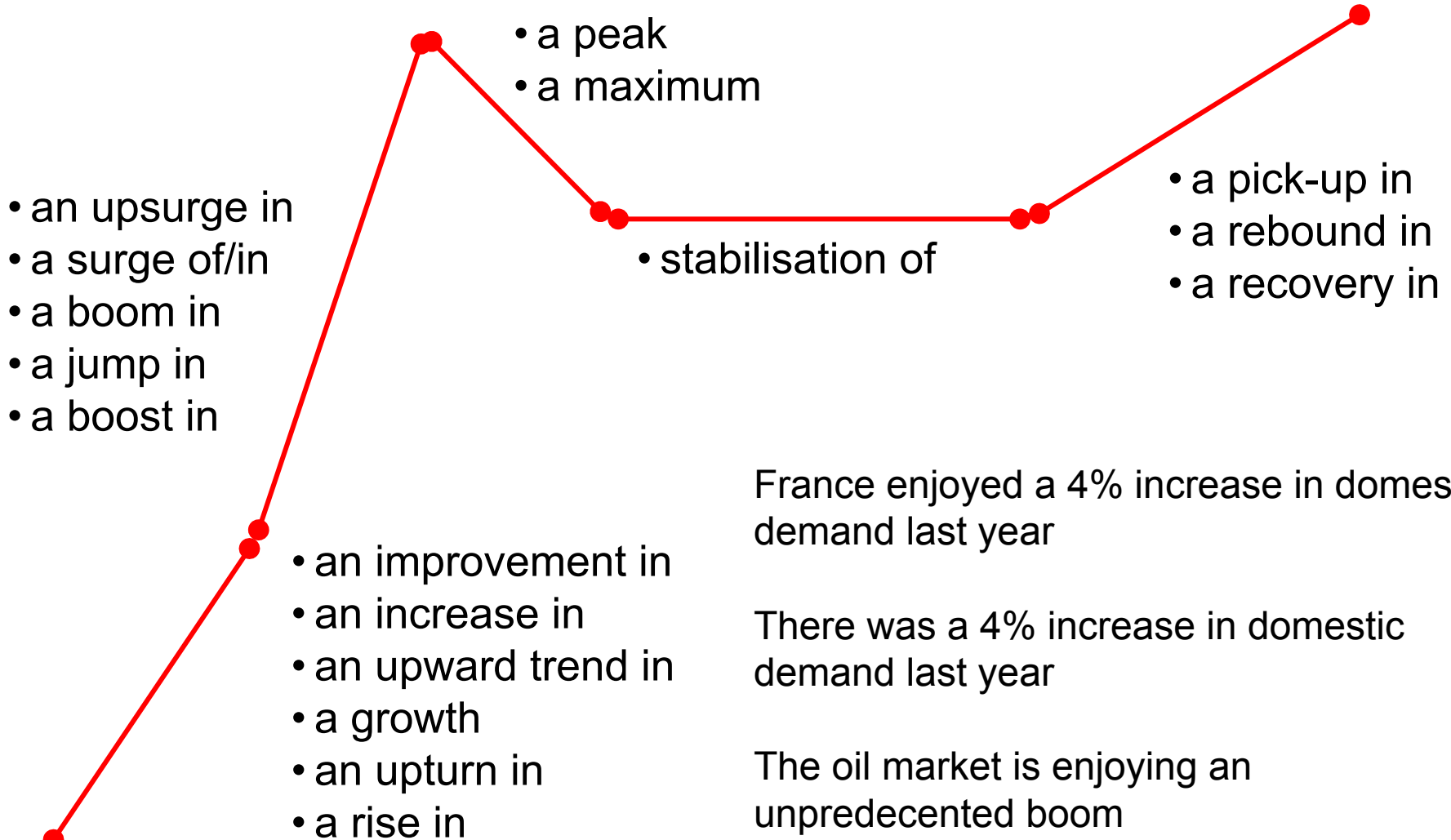
Tenses

- Present Simple
 - Past Simple (in, between):
 - *It is clear that Italy had the older population in the year 2000, and the same is predicted for the year 2050*
 - Present Perfect (by, since)
 - *The UK unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest level since 2009*
-

Language

- Use simple language and structures
 - The graph shows = illustrates = compares
 - Describe numbers
 - Compare numbers
 - Describe changes
-

Nouns of increase



Verbs of increase

- boom
- rocket
- double/triple
- soar
- take off
- shoot up
- surge
- jump

- go up
- rise
- increase
- climb
- grow
- improve
- edge up
- creep up

- peak out

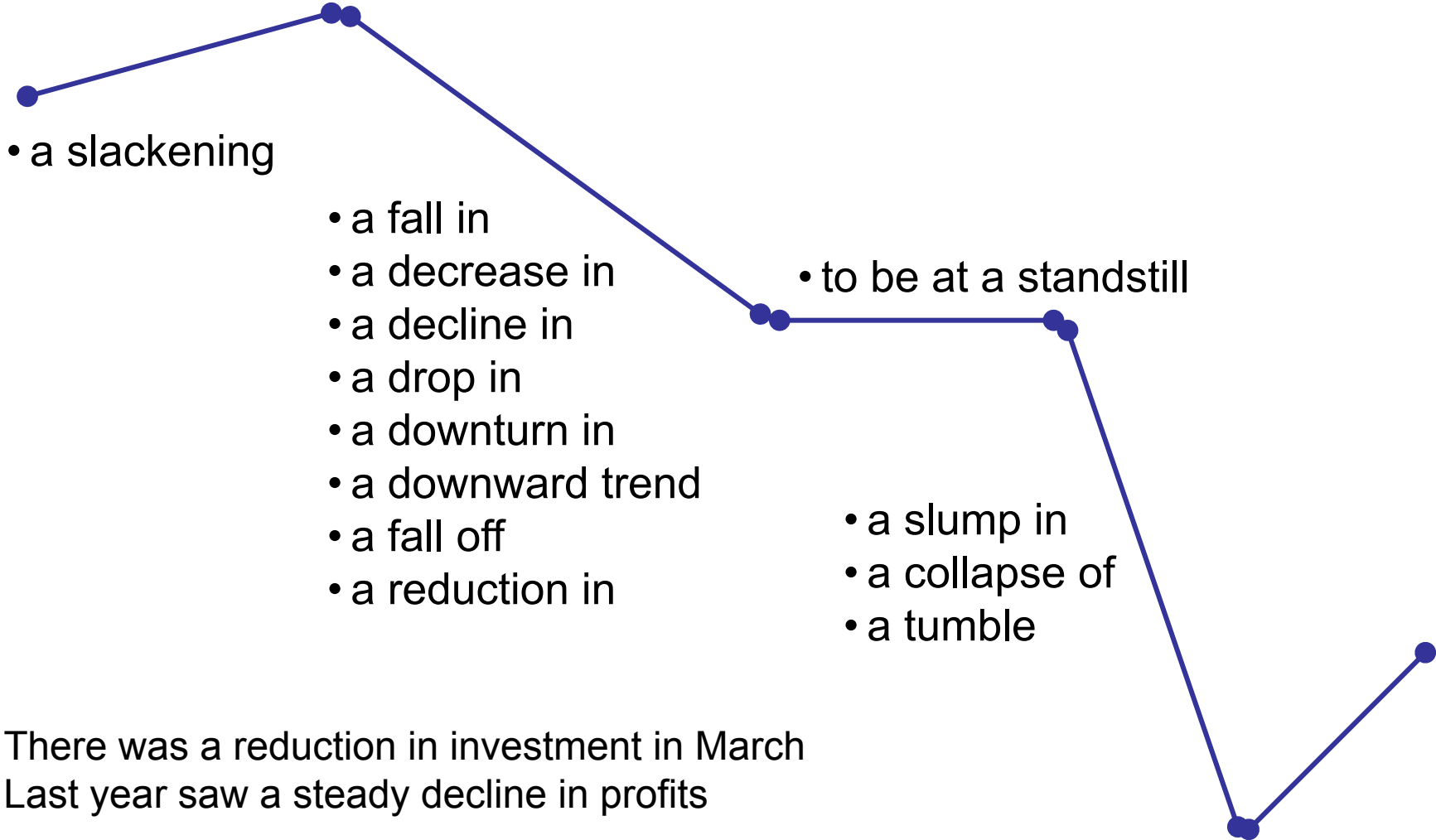
- reach an all time high peak
- reach a maximum

- remain stable
- stabilise

- pick up
- perk up
- recover
- rebound

The percentage rose from 60% to 80%
The figure stays/stands at 3%
Profits rose by 25%
The rate of increase peaked at 34%

Nouns of decrease



Verbs of decrease

- slacken
- slow down

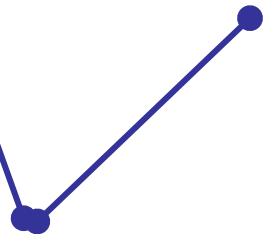
- fall back
- go down
- decrease
- drop back
- decline
- slip

- stay the same/at the same level
- remain unchanged
- level out/off
- flatten out
- stagnate

- plunge
- plummet
- slump
- tumble
- collapse

The figure fell from 80% to 60%
Production fell by 25%

- bottom out
- hit/reach a low (point)
- hit/reach rock bottom

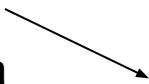

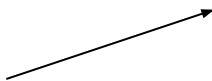




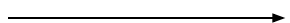

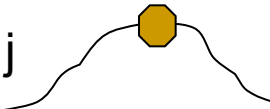
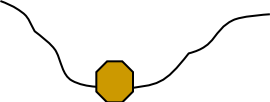



Scale and Speed of Change



Exercise

1. The market is showing some signs of growth
2. The market is extremely volatile
3. The pound slipped back against the dollar
4. The Swiss franc is staging a recovery
5. The lira lost ground slightly
6. There has been a dramatic downturn in the market
7. There has been an upsurge of interest in gold
8. The share price bottomed out at 115p
9. Sugar peaked at \$400 a ton
10. Profit will level off at around L1
11. Sales hit an all-time low
12. There has not been much improvement in the price of tin

a 	b 	c 	d 
e 	f 	g 	h 
i 	j 	k 	l 

Useful links

- Office for National Statistics

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/browse-by-theme/index.html

- Process

[www.eurima.org/about-mineral-wool/production-pr
ocess](http://www.eurima.org/about-mineral-wool/production-process)
