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# IELTS Writing Part 1

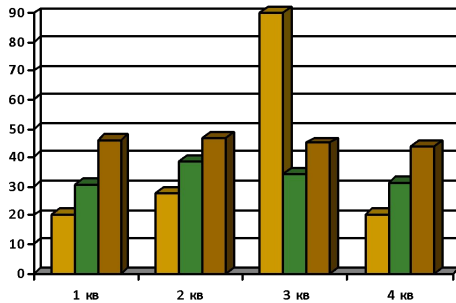
## Describing Graphs

20 minutes / 150 words

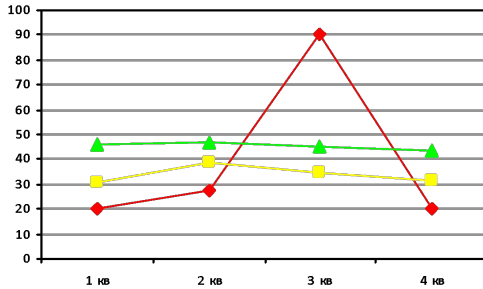
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### General Overview

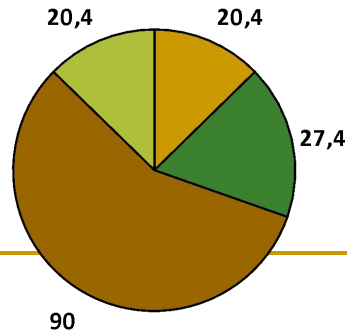
# Types



**Bar chart**



**Line graph**



**Pie chart**

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

**Table**

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

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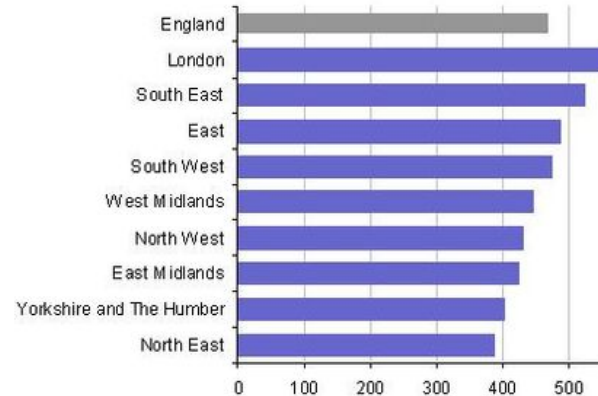
# Structure

- 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.*

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# 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

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# Tenses

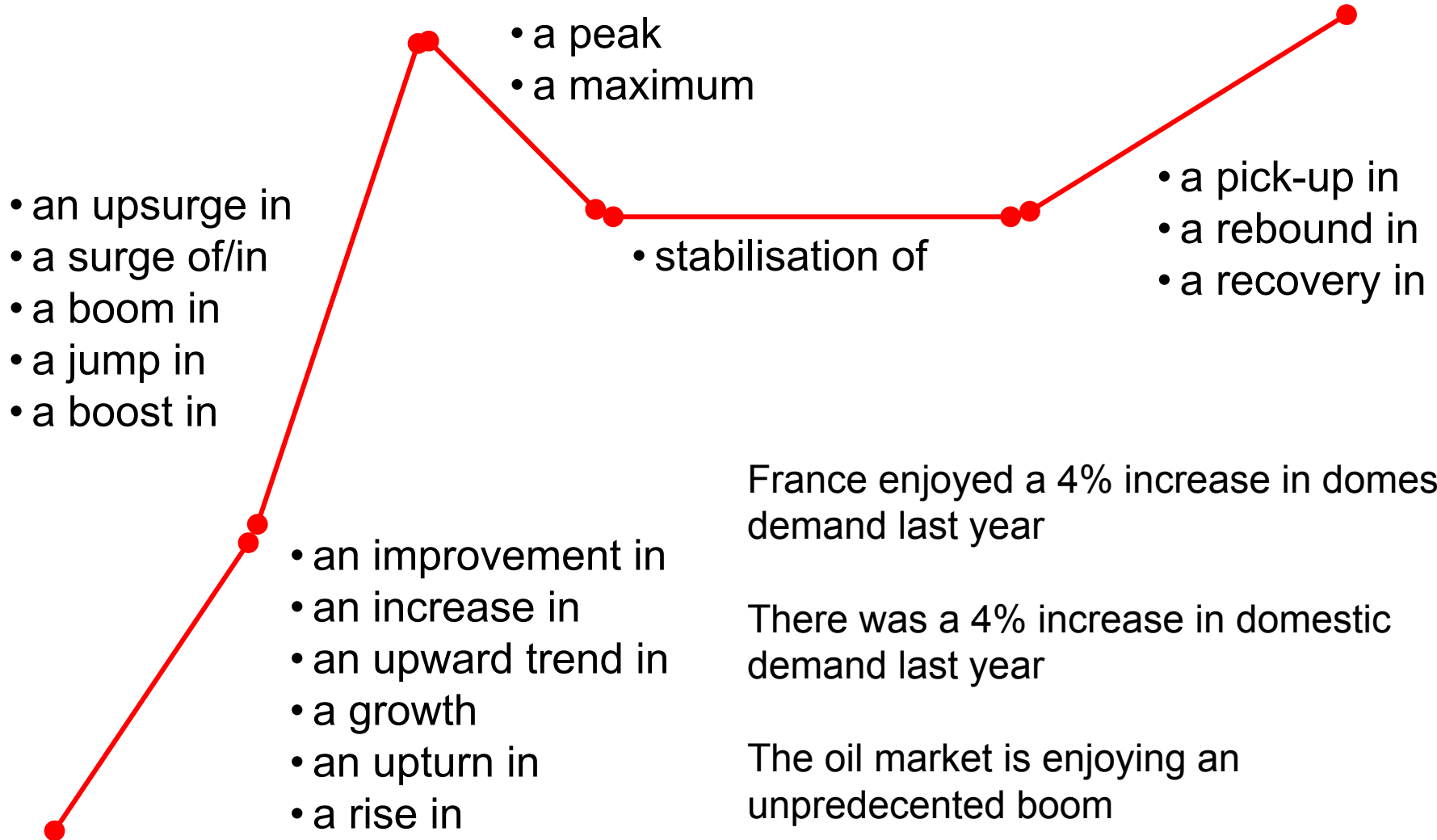
- Present Simple
  - Past Simple (in, between):
    - *It is clear that Italy had the older population in the year 2000, and the same is predicted for the year 2050*
  - Present Perfect (by, since)
    - *The UK unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest level since 2009*
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#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

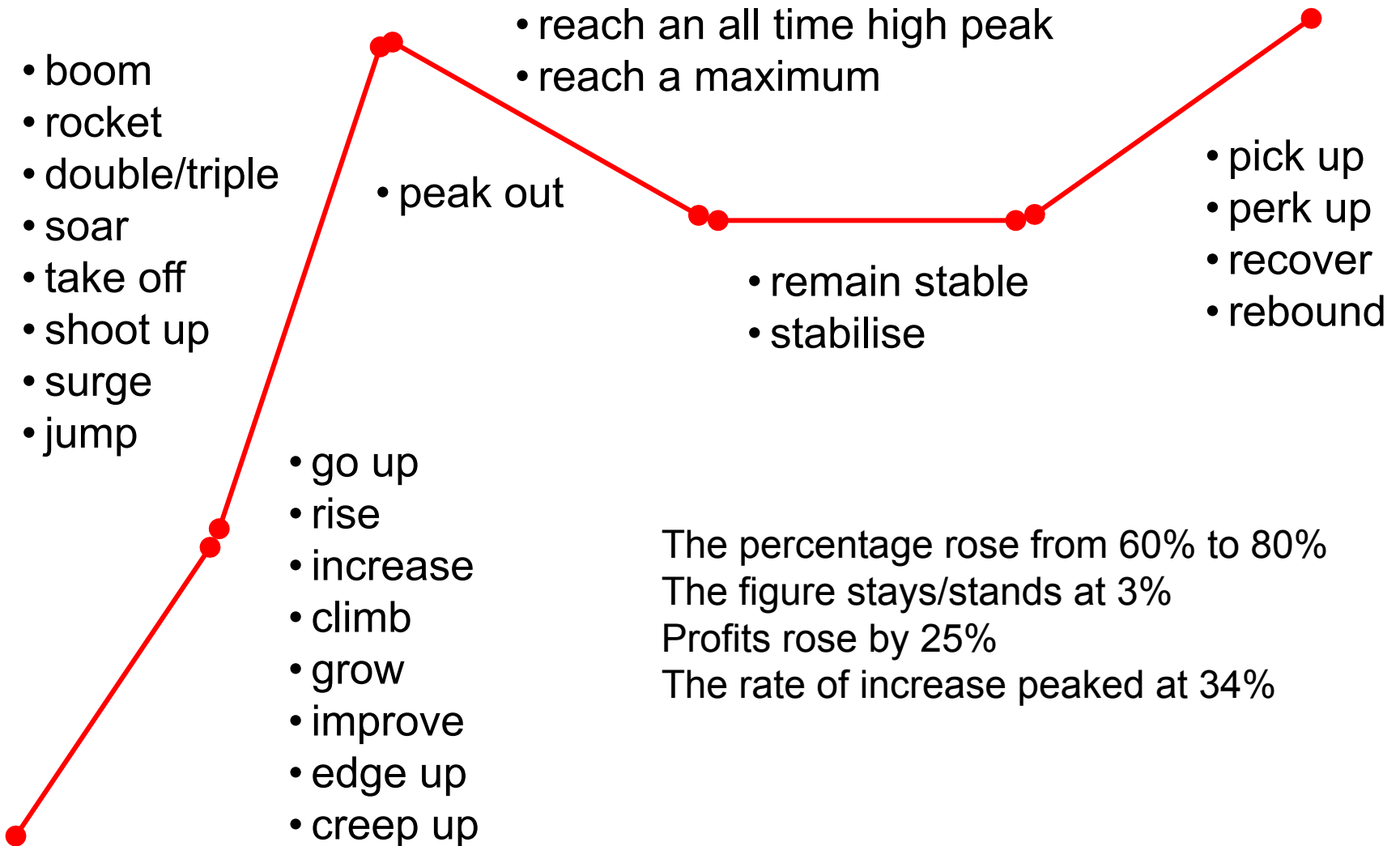
- Use simple language and structures
  - The graph shows = illustrates = compares
  - Describe numbers
  - Compare numbers
  - Describe changes
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# Nouns of increase

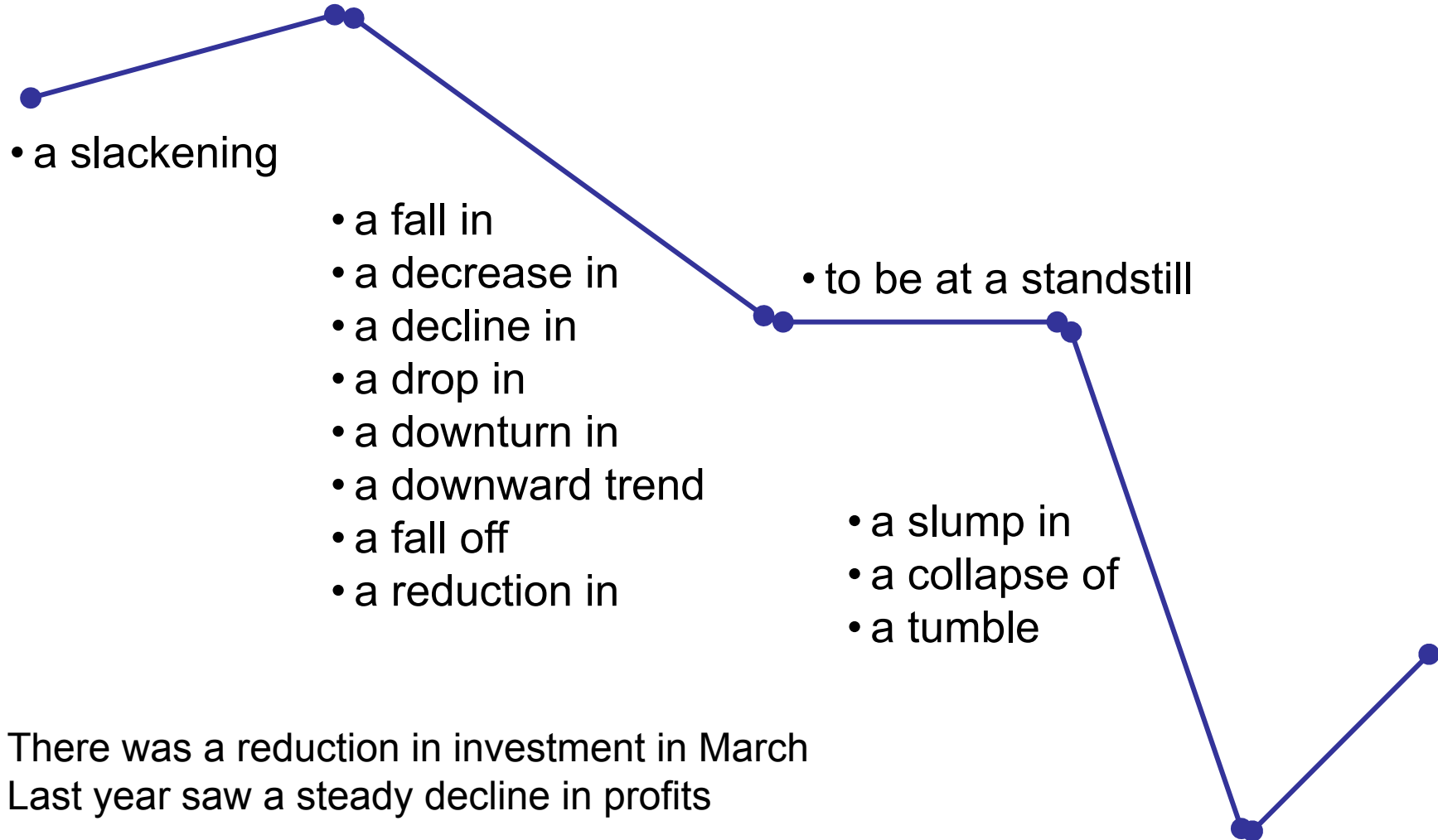




# Verbs of increase



# 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

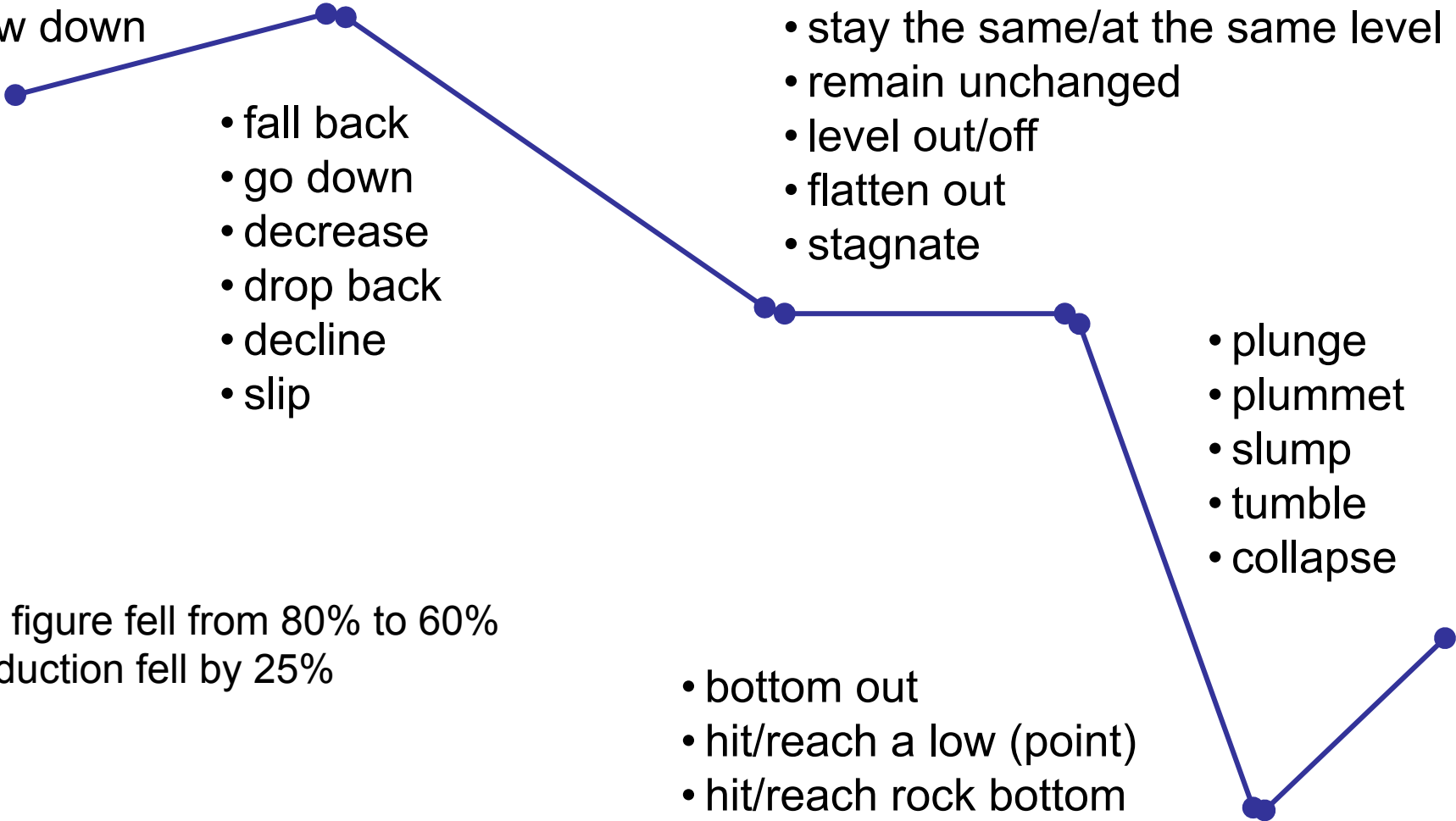
The figure fell from 80% to 60%

Production fell by 25%

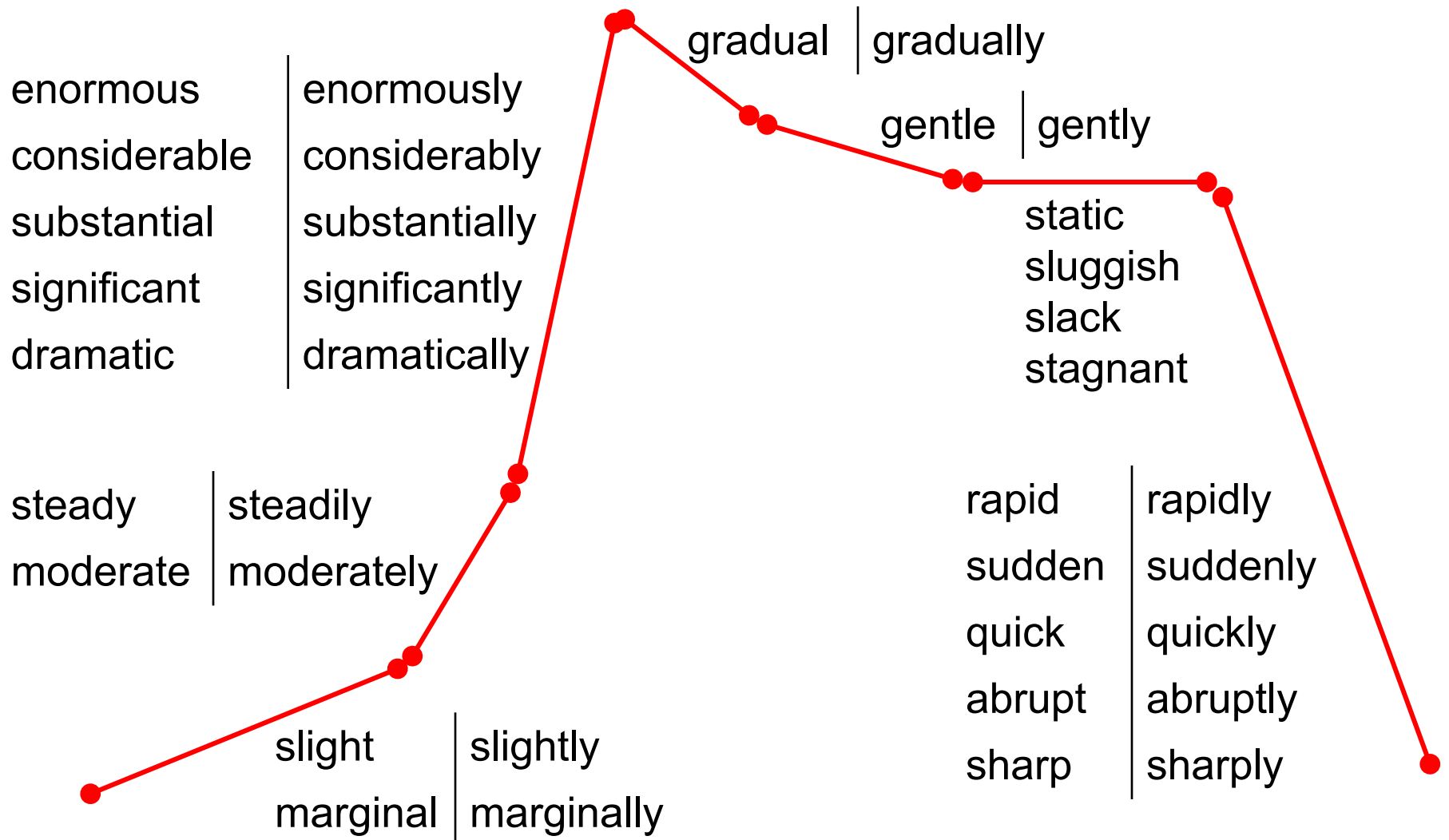
- bottom out

- hit/reach a low (point)

- hit/reach rock bottom

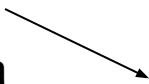

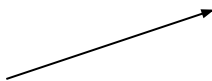




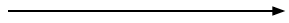

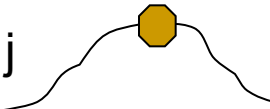
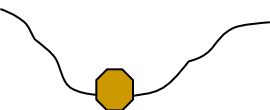



# Scale and Speed of Change



# 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 

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# Useful links

- Office for National Statistics

[www.ons.gov.uk/ons/browse-by-theme/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/browse-by-theme/index.html)

- Process

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

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