



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE**

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# **Academic English**

## **Section 10: Graphs and Charts**

Focus on language and report writing

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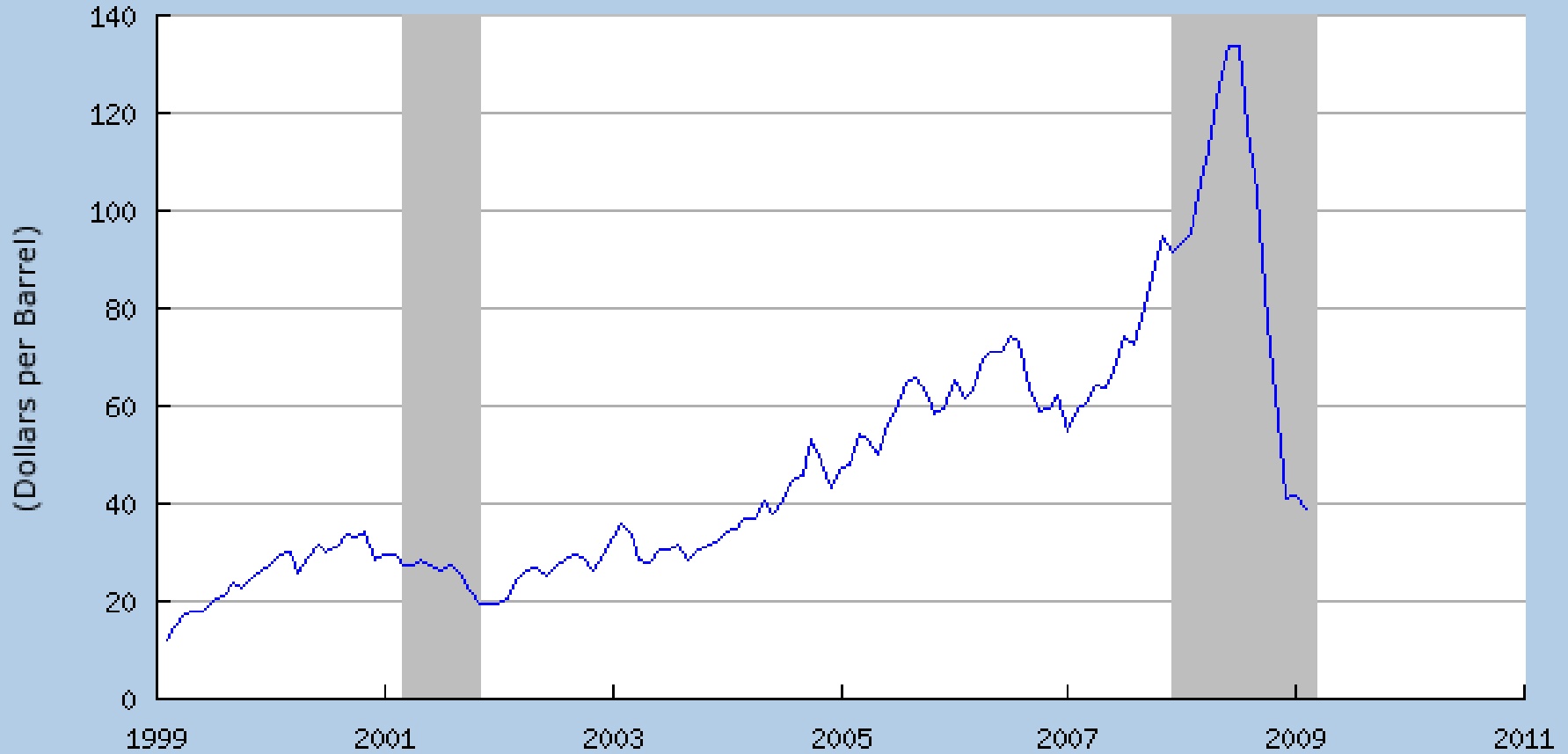
# Graphic Information & Report Writing

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- line graph
- bar graph
- pie chart
- table
- diagram

Spot Oil Price: West Texas Intermediate (OILPRICE)

Source: Dow Jones & Company



Shaded areas indicate US recessions.

2009 research.stlouisfed.org

# Useful chart expressions

- 
- The graph shows / **indicates** / depicts / illustrates  
From the graph it is clear  
It can be seen from the graph  
As can be seen from the graph,  
As is shown / illustrated by the graph,  
Example: *The graph shows the percentage of children using supplements in a place over a year.*

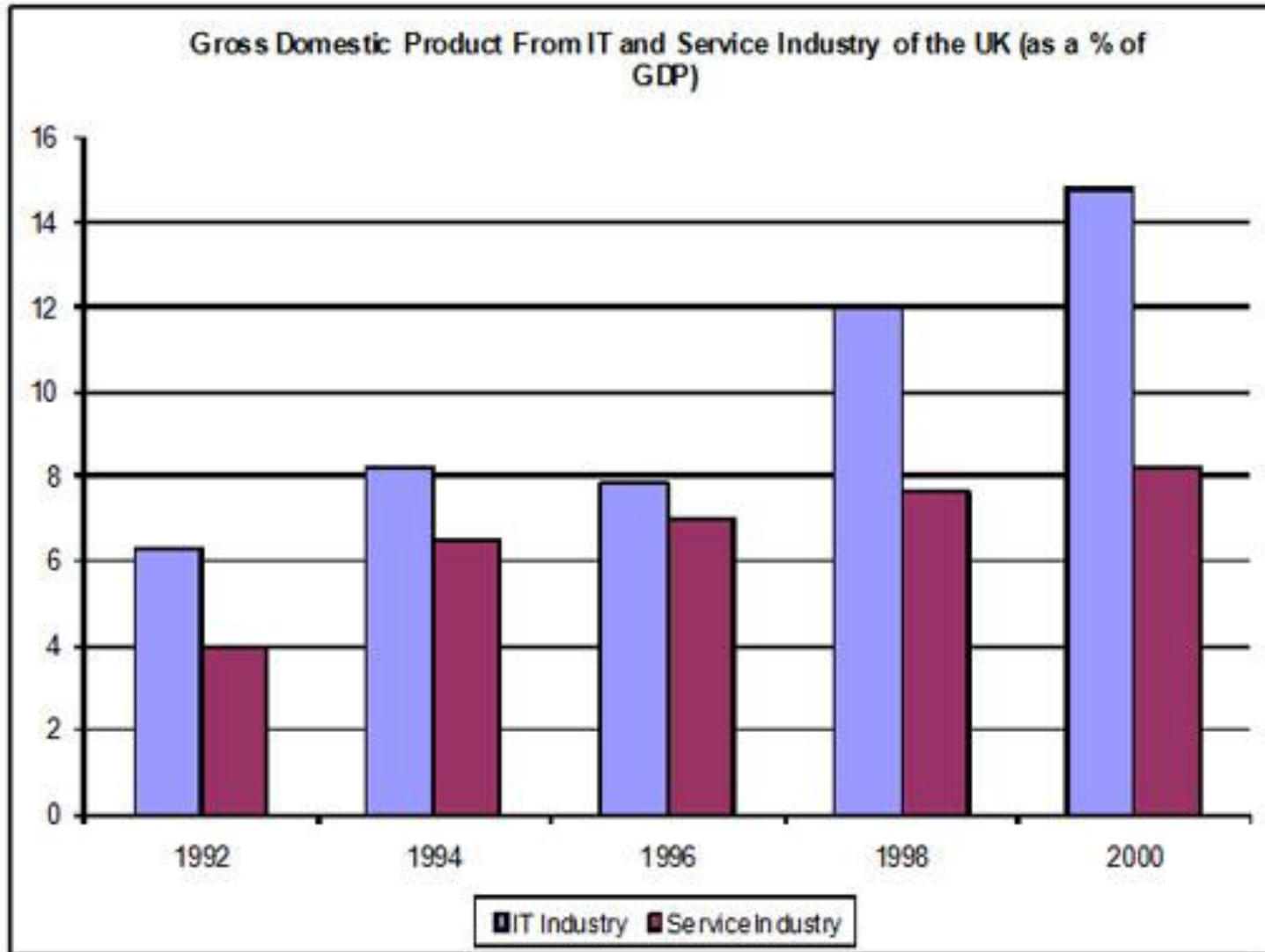
## **Useful time expressions**

over the next... / for the following... (*for the following two months... over the next six months...*)

**from ... to** / between ... and (*from June to August... between June and August...*)

during (*during the first three months...*)

- FROM <http://www.ielts-exam.net/ielts-preparation-tips/describe-a-line-graph.html>



<http://www.ieltsbuddy.com/bar-chart.html>



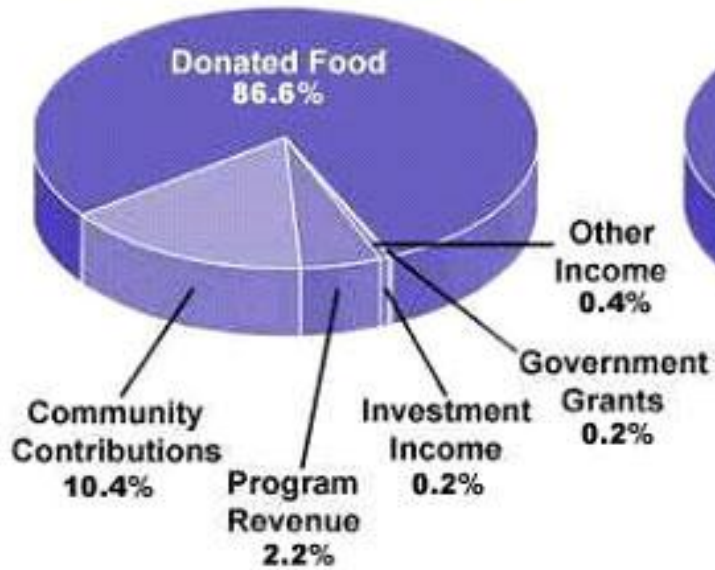
# Organising your answer

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Write in organised paragraphs

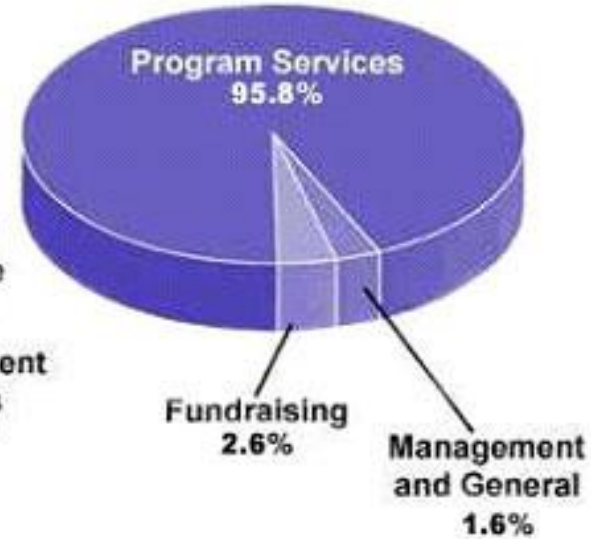
- Introduction: objectively describe the main bar information
- Identify key features and important trends (by grouping elements together)
- Compare and contrast
- Look at the supporting details
- In a conclusion summarise the most important information

## REVENUE SOURCES



**Total \$53,561,580**

## EXPENDITURES



**Total \$53,224,896**

<http://www.ieltsbuddy.com/task-1-sample.html>

# Vary the language of proportions and percentage

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- *A large number of people*  
*over a quarter of people*  
*a small minority*  
*A significant number of*  
*people*  
*less than a fifth*
- 77% **just over** three quarters
- 77% **approximately** three quarters
- 49% **just under** a half
- 49% **nearly** a half
- 32% **almost** a third
- 75% - 85% a very large majority
- 65% - 75% a significant proportion
- 10% - 15% a minority



## Alcohol-Related Deaths 2005

beers consumption  
per capita, 2002  
(liters)

	Total	Male	Female	
<b>Lithuania</b>	125,000	112,000	13,000	91
<b>Ireland</b>	582,000	413,000	169,000	104
<b>Czech Republic</b>	1,369,000	900,000	469,000	132
<b>Canada</b>	580,000	505,000	75,000	86
<b>Estonia</b>	383,000	332,000	51,000	98
<b>Germany</b>	1,185,000	986,000	200,000	107
<b>Austria</b>	913,000	783,000	130,000	106

# Vary the language of comparison

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compare	example
If we compare	If we compare both groups, we see
By comparing	By comparing both groups, it is possible to
to make/draw a comparison between	We can make a comparison between
In comparison with	In comparison with golf, cricket was

contrast	example
In contrast to	Boys in contrast to girls played less
By contrast,	By contrast, boys played more sport
a contrast between	There was a clear contrast between the

From <http://www.dcielts.com/ielts-grammar/comparisons-academic-task-1/>

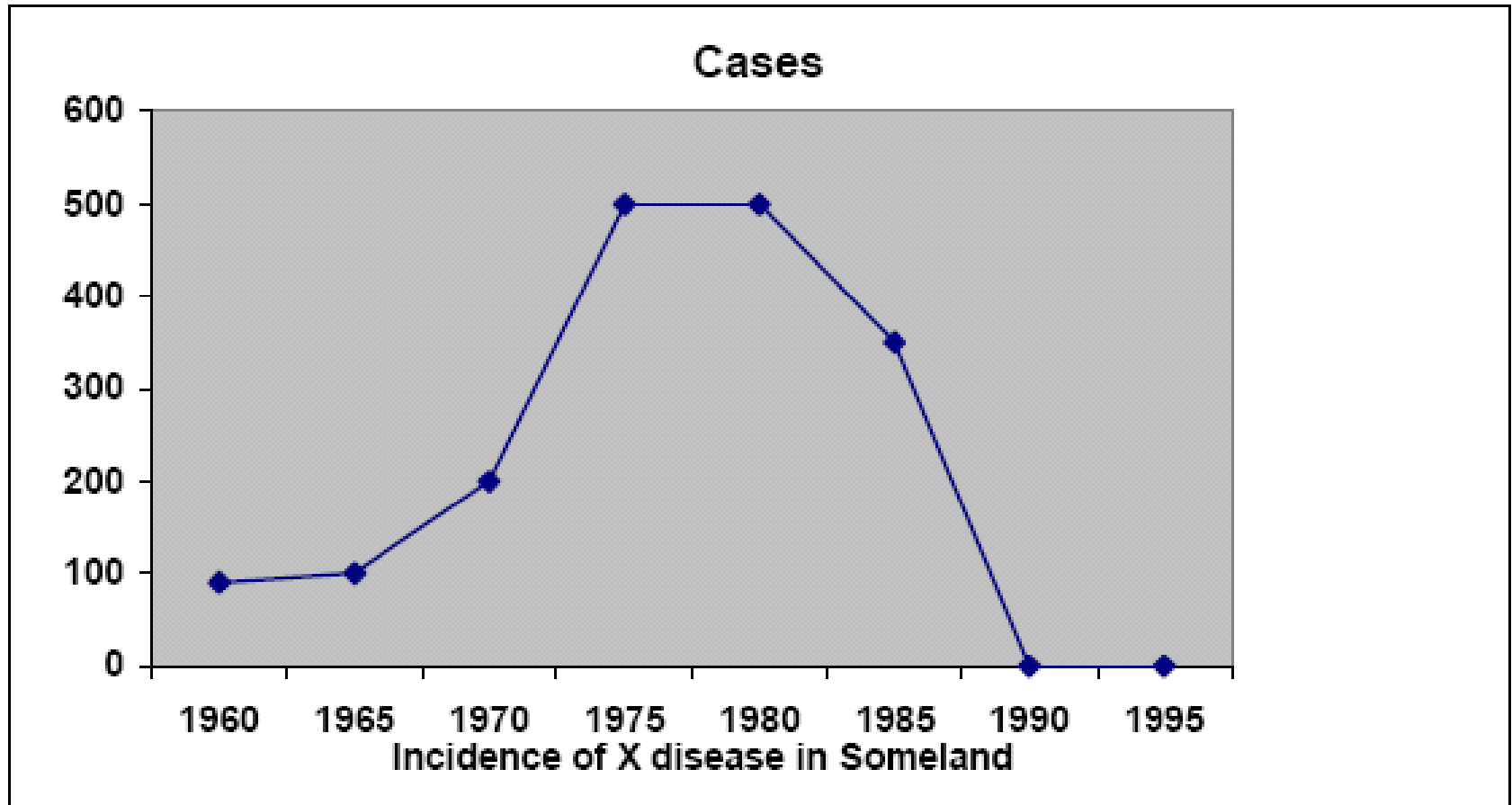
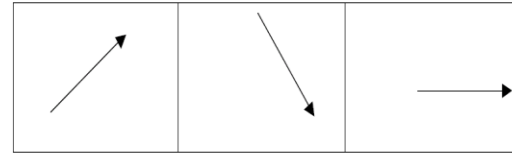



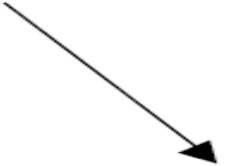

# Selecting Information

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- Describe the whole graph fully
- Does not mean note every detail
- Do not include too much information
- Summarise by dividing into its main parts
- Describe the trends

# Language of trends



Direction	Verbs	Nouns
	<p>Rose (to)  Increased (to)  Went up (to)  Climbed (to)  Boomed</p>	<p>A rise  An increase  Growth  An upward trend  A boom (a dramatic rise)</p>
	<p>Fell (to)  Declined (to)  Decreased (to)  Dipped (to)  Dropped (to)  Went down (to)  Slumped (to)  Reduced (to)</p>	<p>A decrease  A decline  A fall  A drop  A slump (a dramatic fall)  A reduction</p>
	<p>Levelled out (at)  Did not change  Remained stable (at)  Remained steady (at)  Stayed constant (at)  Maintained the same level</p>	<p>A levelling out  No change</p>
	<p>Fluctuated (around)  Peaked (at)  Plateaued (at)  Stood at (we use this phrase to focus on a particular point, before we mention the movement, for example: In the first year, unemployment stood at ...)</p>	<p>A fluctuation  Reached a peak (of)  Reached at plateau (at)</p>



## Expressing Movement: Nouns and Verbs

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For each trend there are a number of verbs and nouns to express the movement.

- Use a verb of change, for example:

- *Unemployment levels **fell***

- Or we can use a related noun, for example:

- *There was a **fall** in unemployment levels*



## Describing the Movement: Adjectives and Adverbs

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- There has been a **slight** increase in the value of the dollar  
(degree of change)
- Unemployment fell **rapidly** last year  
(the speed of change)

We modify a **noun with an adjective** (a **slight** increase)  
and a **verb with an adverb** (to increase **slightly**).

# Describing the Degree of Change

<b>Adjectives</b>	<b>Adverbs</b>
dramatic	dramatically
sharp	sharply
huge	
enormous	enormously
steep	steeply
substantial	substantially
considerable	considerably
significant	significantly
marked	markedly
moderate	moderately
slight	slightly
small	
minimal	minimally



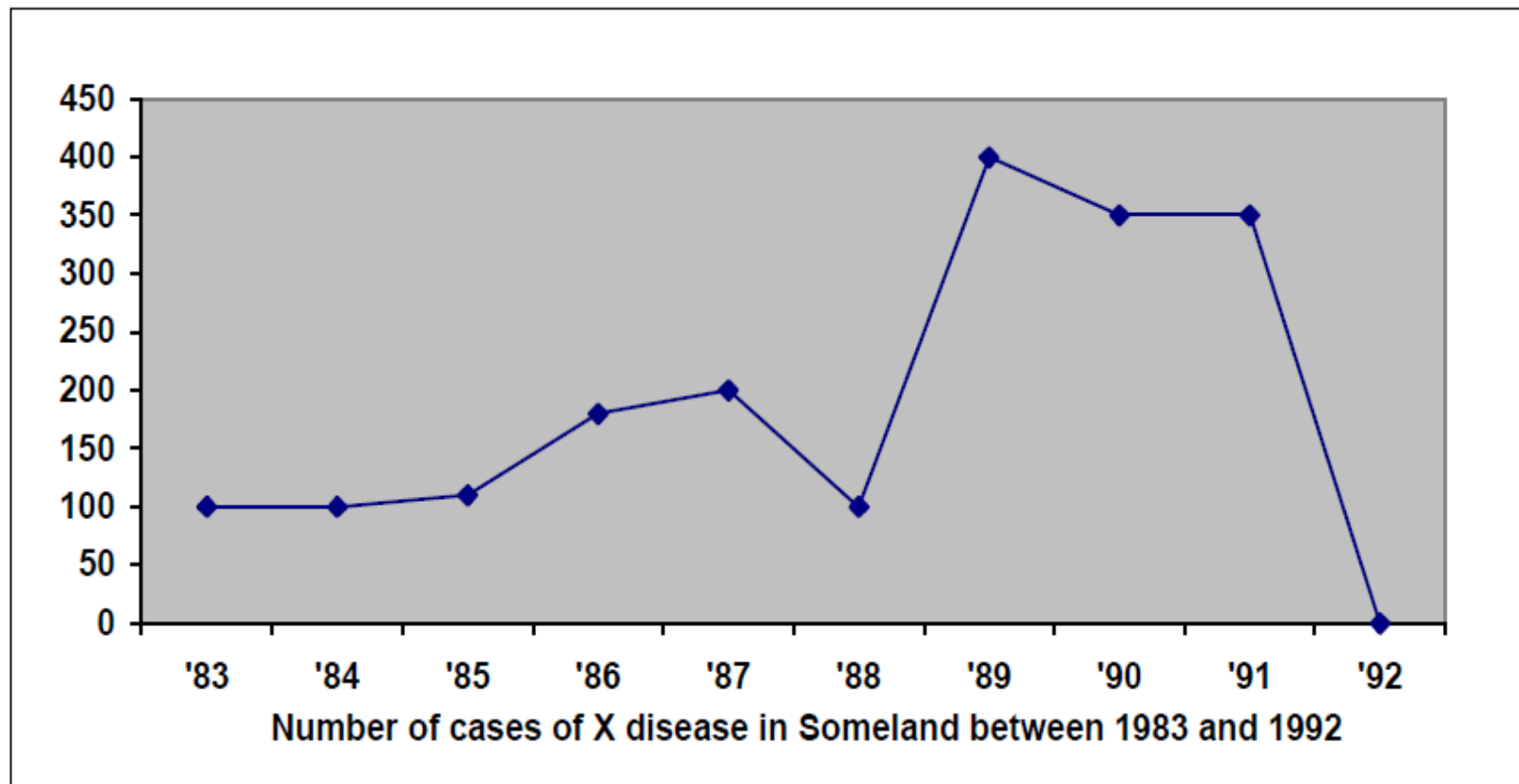
# Describing the Speed of Change

<b>Adjectives</b>	<b>Adverbs</b>
rapid	rapidly
quick	quickly
swift	swiftly
sudden	suddenly
steady	steadily
gradual	gradually
slow	slowly

## Exercise

Use the following terms and any others necessary to describe the graph below.

initially, stood at, dip/dipped, peak/peaked, level/levelled out



## Describing a trend

We can describe a trend by looking at:


- ◆ the difference between two levels
- ◆ the end point of the trend

## Describing the difference between two levels

This year unemployment has increased **by** 20,000 cases (the difference between this year and last year is 20,000 cases).

This year there has been an increase in unemployment **of** 5%.

Notice the prepositions. We use to increase **by** (with the verb) and an increase **of** (with the noun).



## Describing the end point

This year unemployment has risen to 10% (the end result is that unemployment is up to 10%).

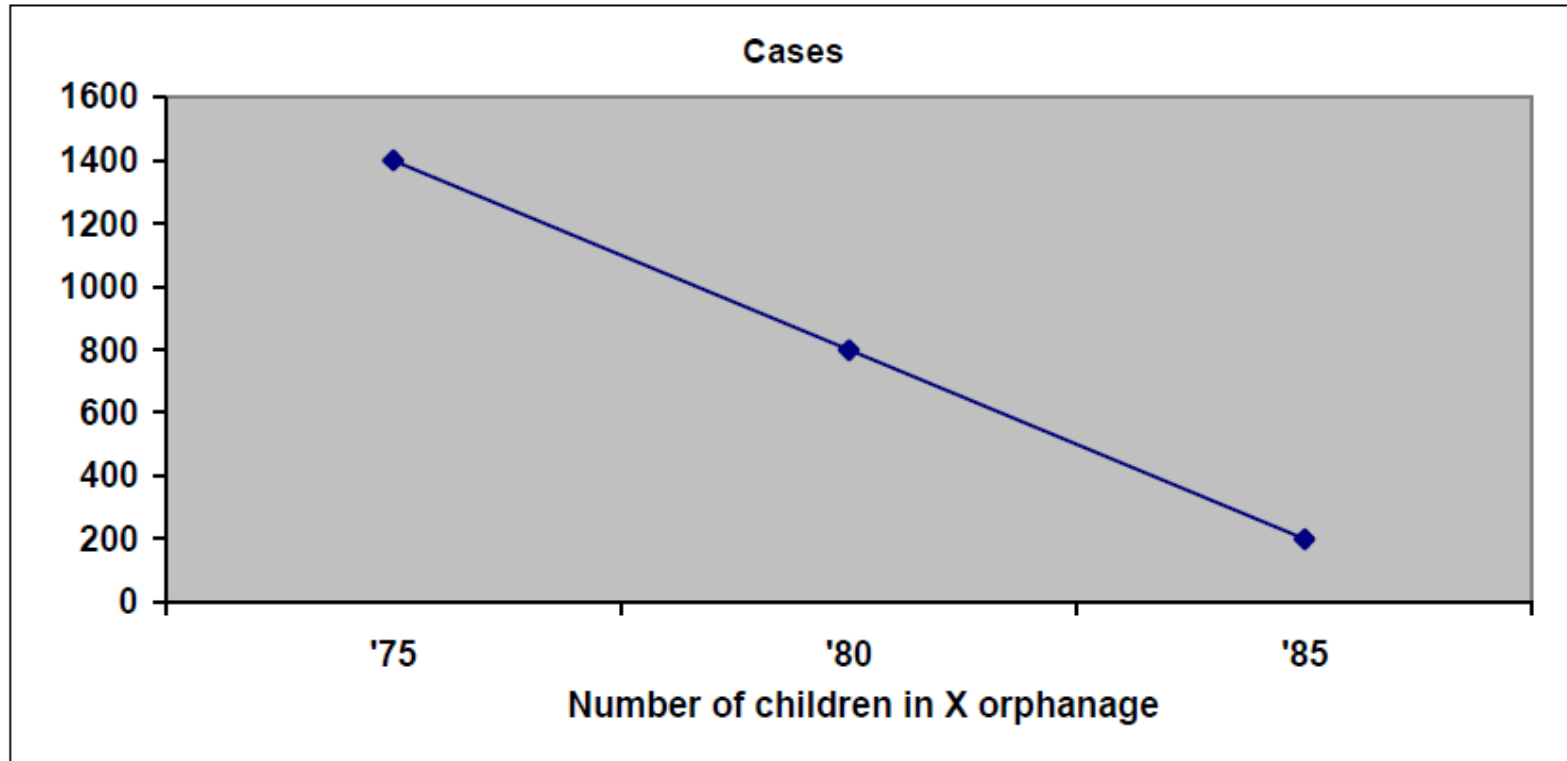
This year there has been a rise in unemployment to 10%.

Notice the prepositions. We use to rise **to** (with the verb) and a rise **to** (with the noun).

## Exercise

Write 3 sentences describing the graph below using **by**, **of** and **to**.

# Expressing Approximation

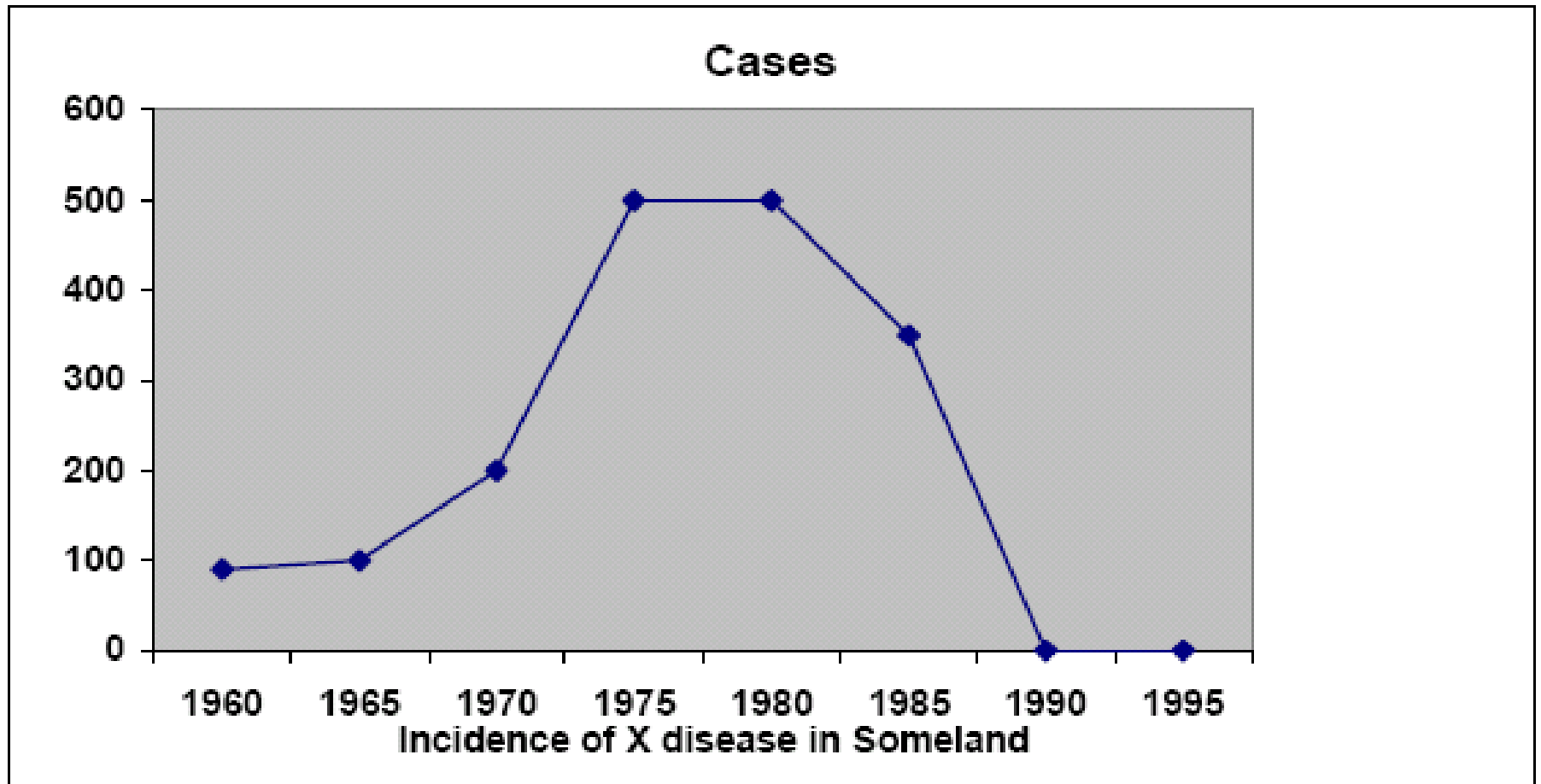


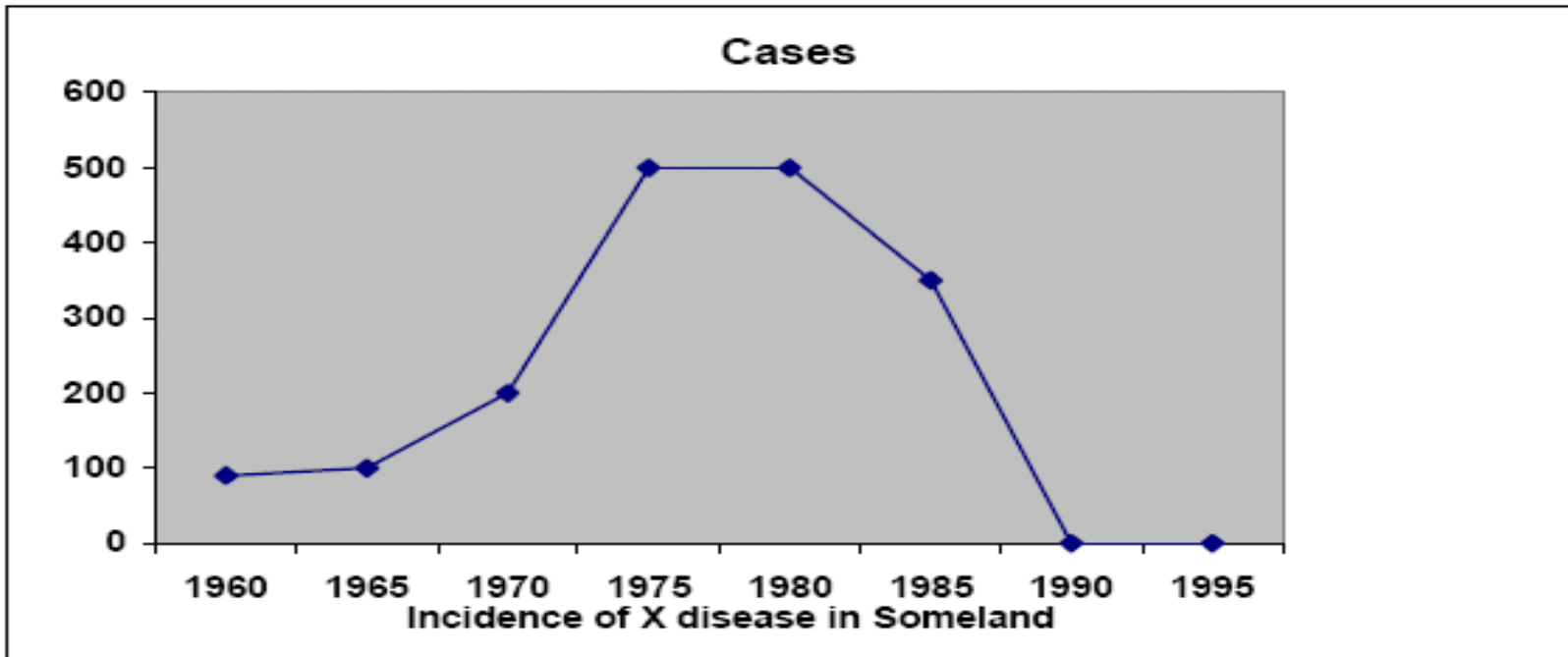
**just under**  
**well under**  
**roughly**  
**approximately**  
**about**

**just over**  
**well over**  
**nearly**  
**around**

# Describe the information period by period

- Graph gives the information in five year sections





- .. first, a gradual increase from 1960 to 1968
- .. second, a steeper increase from 1968 to 1977
- .. third, a plateau from 1977 to 1983
- .. fourth, a drop from 1983 to 1988

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- <http://www.ieltsbuddy.com>
  - <http://www.ielts-exam.net>
  - <http://www.ielts-mentor.com>



# End of Section

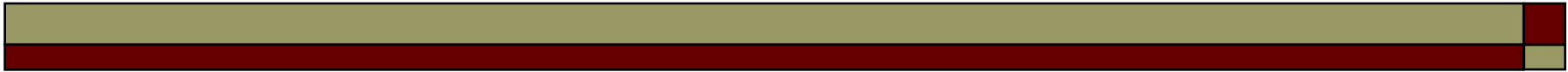


Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

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