

Task 1 Language Bank

Vocabulary by Chart Type

The precise language examiners reward, organised by the kind of visual you're describing. Identify the chart type first — then draw on the matching language. From the Task 1 Language Bank in the Complete Band 7+ Academic Writing Guide.

DIAGNOSTIC — IDENTIFY YOUR CHART FIRST

Match your visual to the right tense and category.

Line Graph (time series)	Dynamic → past simple (or future for projections)
Bar Chart or Table (dated)	Static or Dynamic → check for dates
Bar Chart or Table (undated)	Static → present simple
Pie Chart	Static or Dynamic — check the date range
Process Diagram	Present simple passive throughout
Map (past to present)	Past simple passive for changes; "remains" for unchanged
Mixed Charts	Match tense to each visual; cover both with equal depth

Static Charts — A Single Point in Time

Use when: *the chart shows one moment (no change to describe). Present simple, plus language of proportion, comparison, and ranking.*

Proportion	accounts for · makes up · represents · constitutes · comprises
Largest / smallest	the largest · the highest · the smallest · the lowest · the second largest · the least common
Comparison	far more than · slightly less than · roughly twice as many as · considerably higher than
Ranking	followed by · ahead of · ranks first · ranks last · at the top of the list
Similarity	broadly similar to · comparable to · on a par with · almost identical to
Approximation	approximately · around · just over · just under · close to · nearly

Change Over Time — Dynamic / Trend Charts

Use when: *the chart tracks change across time. Past simple for completed periods, with trend verbs, noun forms, and adverbs of degree.*

Upward (verb)	rose · increased · climbed · grew · surged · soared · rocketed · jumped
Downward (verb)	fell · decreased · declined · dropped · plunged · plummeted · dipped
Upward (noun)	a rise · an increase · a climb · a surge · growth · an upward trend
Downward (noun)	a fall · a decrease · a decline · a drop · a downward trend
Stability	remained stable · held steady · stayed constant · levelled off · plateaued
Fluctuation	fluctuated · varied · was erratic · rose and fell
Peak / low	peaked at · reached a high of · hit a low of · bottomed out at
Degree (adverb)	sharply · dramatically · steeply · gradually · steadily · slightly · marginally

Future / Projected Data

Use when: *the chart shows forecasts. Switch from past tense to future forms for the projected portion.*

Prediction	is expected to · is projected to · is forecast to · is predicted to
Likelihood	is likely to · will probably · is set to · is anticipated to
Future change	will rise · will fall · will continue to grow · will overtake · is due to reach
Time markers	by 2035 · over the coming decade · in the years to follow · from 2025 onward

Process Diagrams

Use when: *sequencing stages. Present simple passive for man-made processes; active/intransitive present simple for natural processes.*

Beginning	the process begins with · at the first stage · initially · to begin with
Sequence	next · then · after that · subsequently · following this · once it has been
Ending	finally · in the final stage · the process ends with · the cycle then repeats
Passive (man-made)	is collected · are sorted · is heated · are transported · is packaged
Active (natural)	water evaporates · clouds form · rain falls · the larva hatches · the cycle begins
Purpose / cause	in order to · so that · which allows · resulting in · causing

Maps

Use when: *describing spatial change. Verbs of development for changes; "remains" for what stayed the same.*

Construction	was built · was constructed · was erected · was established
Removal	was demolished · was pulled down · was cleared · made way for
Conversion	was converted into · was replaced by · was transformed into · gave way to
Expansion	was extended · was enlarged · was widened · underwent expansion
Direction (compass)	in the north · to the south-west · along the eastern edge · in the far north
Relative position	next to · opposite · adjacent to · alongside · in the top-left · along the coast

The rest of the method

This language bank is a distilled reference. The full **IELTS Academic Writing: Complete Band 7+ Guide** contains the TREND and COMPARE frameworks that show you how to *deploy* this language in Band 7+ sentences, five complete Task 1 model responses with paragraph-by-paragraph feedback, fill-in planning templates for every chart type, and the SCORE framework for building any Task 1 in 20 minutes.

Buy the e-book at deencoxielts.com/shop.html — ¥118, watermarked EPUB + PDF, delivery within 24 hours.