

## Activity Type

Vocabulary, Reading and Writing Exercises: matching, categorising, gap-fill, writing a paragraph

## Focus

Describing trends

## Aim

To practice language for describing trends.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

## Level

Intermediate (B1)

## Time

35 minutes

## Introduction

In this describing trends worksheet, students practice verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs that describe trends.

## Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin by matching symbols that show trend directions to verbs, verb phrases, nouns, and noun phrases.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. b   2. c   3. d   4. a

Next, students categorise adjectives according to their strength and intensity - weak, medium, or strong. Students then write the adverb form of each adjective.

Exercise B - Answer key

Weak - slight, slightly, slow, slowly, modest, modestly

Medium - gradual, gradually, moderate, moderately, steady, steadily

Strong - dramatic, dramatically, sharp, sharply, steep, steeply, rapid, rapidly, significant, significantly

After that, students study a line graph showing the annual sales for a new product and complete a description describing the trend over the year.

Exercise C - Possible answers

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. steady increase     | 5. rising steeply |
| 2. fluctuated          | 6. levelling off  |
| 3. gradual improvement | 7. fluctuated     |
| 4. significant decline | 8. moderate       |





Finally, students study a second line graph and create their own trend description using the language from the worksheet.

Exercise D - Example answer

The line graph shows the sales performance of our new product over the past year. The sales have shown mixed results with only a **slight increase** for the overall period. Sales **remained stable** throughout the first quarter before showing a **rapid decline** throughout March. Beginning in April, sales experienced a **fluctuation** until July. After which, sales **slightly improved** through to October. The final quarter of the year shows a **dramatic rise** in sales, passing those in the first quarter. Overall, our annual sales have shown a **modest improvement**.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

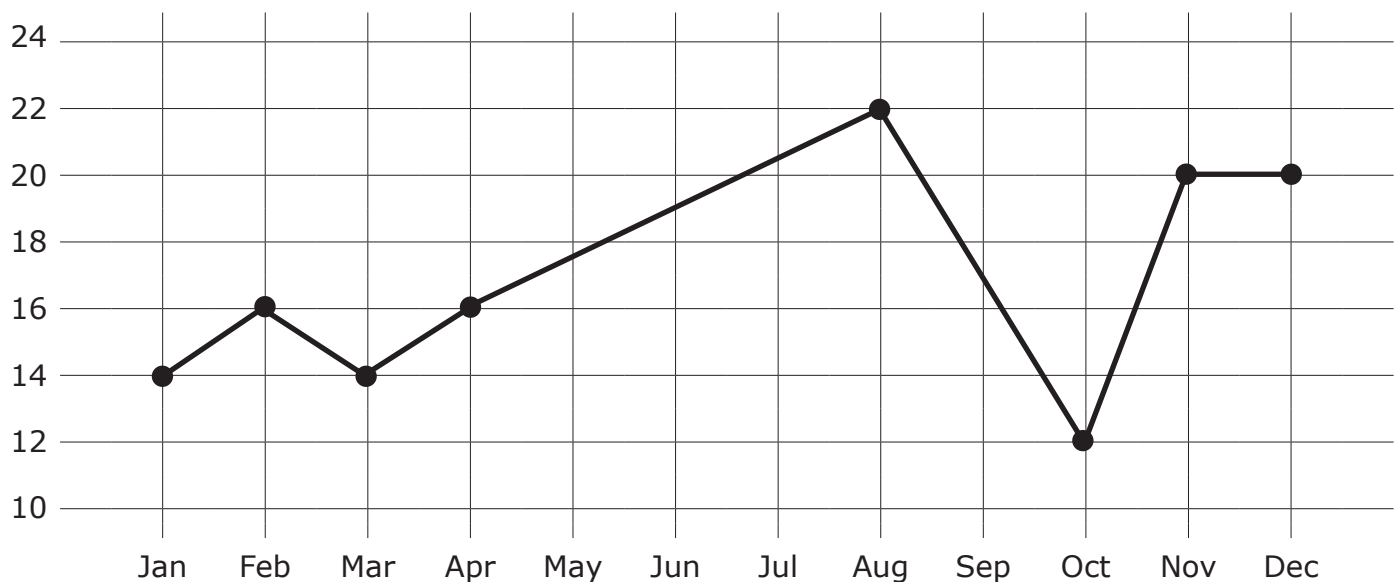
**A. Match the trends to the correct verbs, verb phrases, nouns, and noun phrases.**

| Trends   | Answers | Verbs and Verb Phrases                    | Nouns and Noun Phrases                       |
|--|---------|---|--|
| a.  | 1. .... | remain stable, remain constant, level off | no change, levelling off                     |
| b.  | 2. .... | fluctuate, move up and down               | a fluctuation                                |
| c.  | 3. .... | rise, increase, climb, improve            | a rise, an increase, a climb, an improvement |
| d.  | 4. .... | fall, drop, decrease, decline             | a fall, a drop, a decrease, a decline        |

**B. Categorise the adjectives according to their strength and intensity. Then, next to each adjective, write its adverb form.**

dramatic   slight   significant   sharp   gradual   slow  
 steep   moderate   modest   steady   rapid

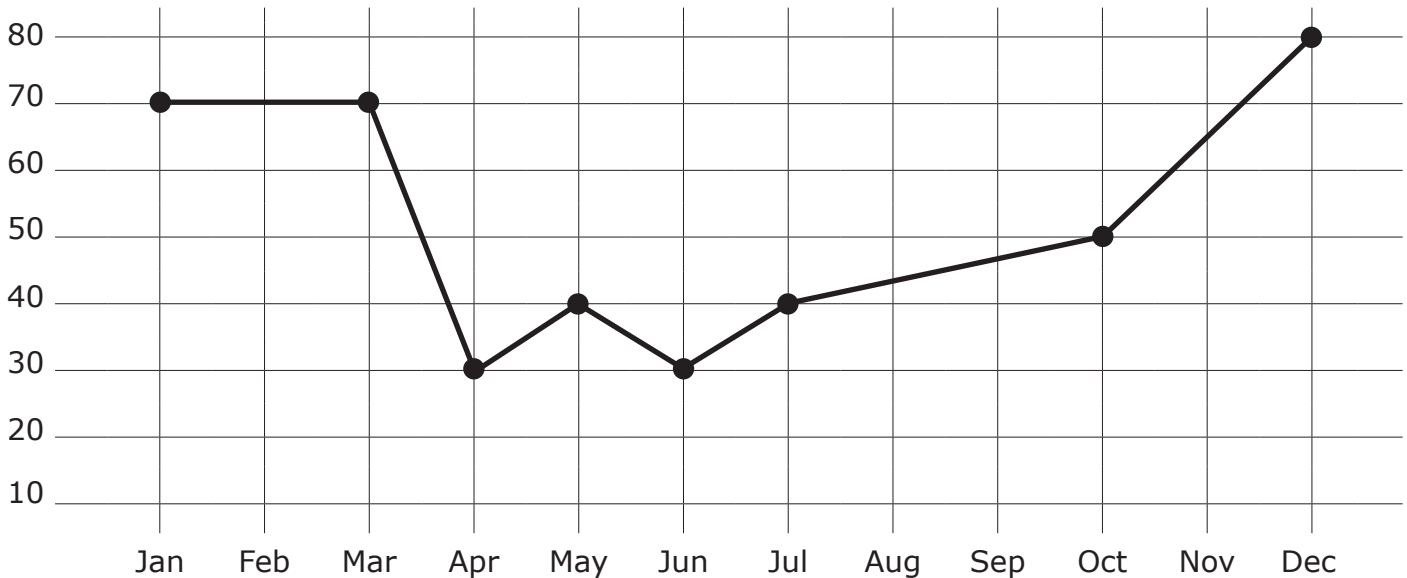
| → <b>Weak</b> → |        | ↗ <b>Medium</b> ↗ |        | ↗ <b>Strong</b> ↗ |        |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Adjective       | Adverb | Adjective         | Adverb | Adjective         | Adverb |
|                 |        |                   |        |                   |        |

**C. Study the line graph below and complete the trend description on the next page.**


**C. Complete the description with words and phrases from Exercises A and B.**

The line graph shows the number of products sold in millions of units by our company over the past year. The sales have shown an overall (1) ..... Between the months of January and April, sales (2) ..... before showing a (3) ..... from April to August. However, after August, sales experienced a (4) ..... until October. Remarkably, there was a dramatic reversal of the trend with sales (5) ..... before (6) ..... between November and December. Overall, while sales (7) ..... throughout the year, the overall growth has been (8) .....

**D. Study the line graph and then create your own trend description.**



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