

Activity Type

Writing, Listening and Speaking Activity: describing, table completion, writing sentences, summarising, controlled and freer practice (group work)

Focus

Describing bar charts and trends

Aim

To describe sales figures and trends in bar charts.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of four and cut as indicated. Also, make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this describing charts and trends activity, students describe sales figures and trends in bar charts.

Procedure

Before you begin, elicit the vocabulary and language needed for the activity from the class by drawing trends in charts on the board.

Useful language:

Verbs	Adverbs	Adjectives	Prepositions
increase, rise, go up, decrease, fall, go down, drop, remain stable, fluctuate	steadily, slightly, sharply, dramatically	steady, slight, sharp, dramatic	from, to, at

Next, tell the students that they are going to describe trends in the sales of two Android phone manufacturers in four regions.

Divide the students into groups of four (Student A, B, C and D).

Give each student a corresponding bar chart and a copy of the worksheet.

Tell the students not to show their bar charts to each other.

First, each student completes a table on their worksheet with the sales figures of the two Android phone manufacturers shown in their bar chart.

Each student then uses the target language to describe their bar chart showing the sales figures for each company over five years to the other students, who complete their tables with the numbers.

Example:

Here are the sales figures for NexusPhones in Asia. In 2016, sales were nine million dollars. In 2017, sales rose slightly to ten million. Sales remained stable at ten million in 2018, etc...

(continued on the next page)

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

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Procedure continued

Table - Answer key

Company	Year	Asia	Africa	America	Europe	Total
Nexus Phones	2016	9	8	10	14	41
	2017	10	6	12	11	39
	2018	10	8	11	10	39
	2019	11	6	9	9	35
	2020	9	8	7	8	32
Infinity Mobile	2016	11	6	5	7	29
	2017	11	8	7	6	32
	2018	12	11	5	10	38
	2019	13	14	7	14	48
	2020	15	19	8	17	59

When the students have finished, they write sentences describing the trends in sales for each company in the different regions and then the overall global trend using the total in the table.

Exercise A - Possible answers

NexusPhones

- Sales in Asia have remained stable with slight increases and decreases over the five years.
- The sales in Africa have fluctuated between 8 million and 6 million over the five-year period.
- Sales in America started well, but after that they have been going down steadily.
- Sales in Europe have experienced a steady decrease over the five-year period.
- The global sales of NexusPhones show a dramatic drop from 41 million to 32 million.

Exercise B - Possible answers

InfinityMobile

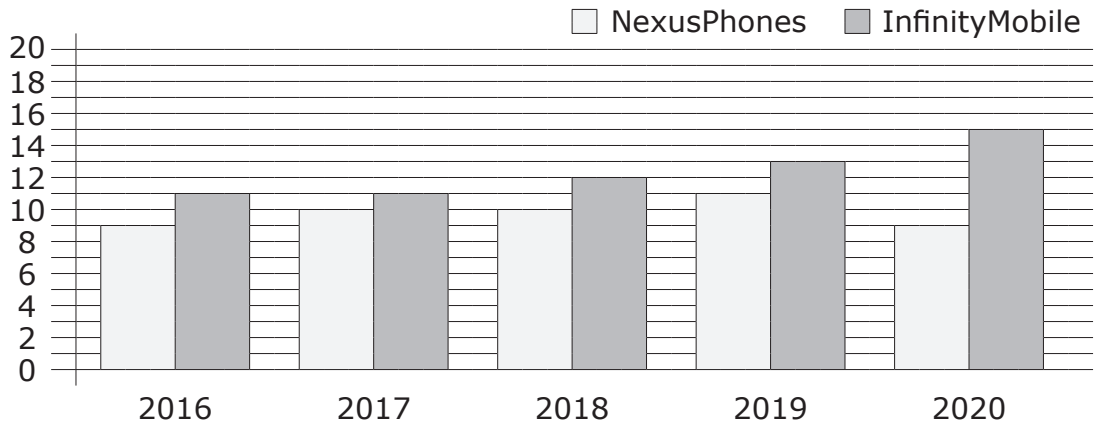
- Sales in Asia have shown a steady increase over the five-year period.
- Sales in Africa have risen dramatically from 2016 to 2020.
- The sales in America have fluctuated, with a steady increase from 2018 to 2020.
- Sales in Europe started with a slight decrease, but then went up sharply for the rest of the period.
- The global sales of InfinityMobile show a dramatic rise over the five-year period.

Finally, students share their sentences with the group to check they all have similar trends for each region. As an extension, students discuss what action the companies should take given these trends.

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

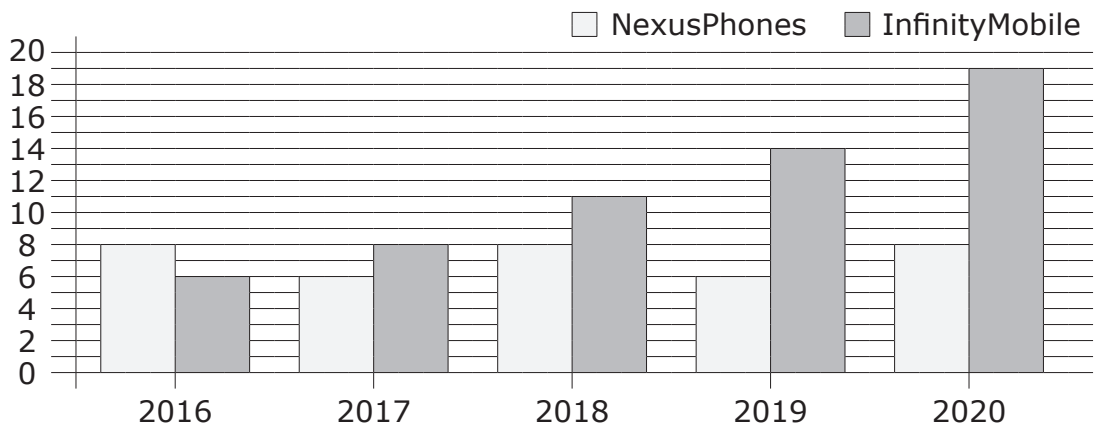
Student A

NexusPhones and InfinityMobile both sell Android phones all over the world. Here are the sales figures in millions of dollars for the **Asian** market from 2016 to 2020.



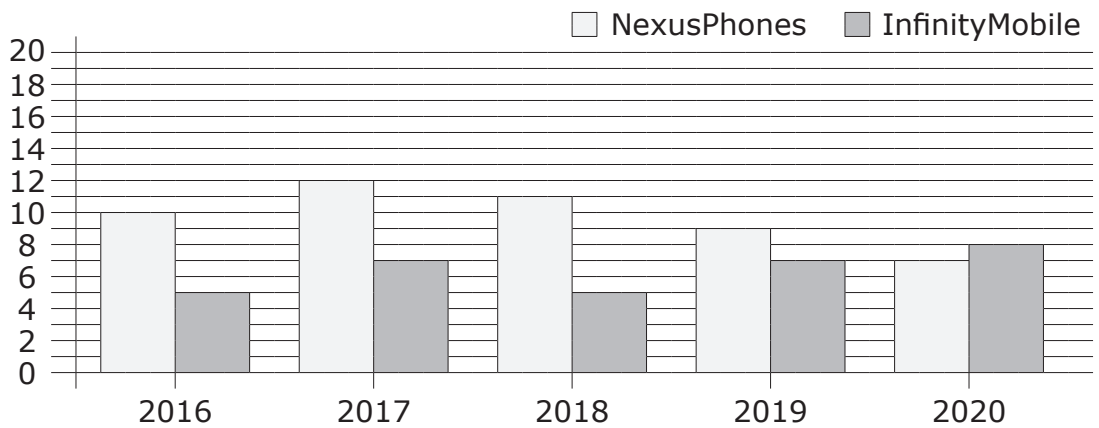
Student B

NexusPhones and InfinityMobile both sell Android phones all over the world. Here are the sales figures in millions of dollars for the **African** market from 2016 to 2020.



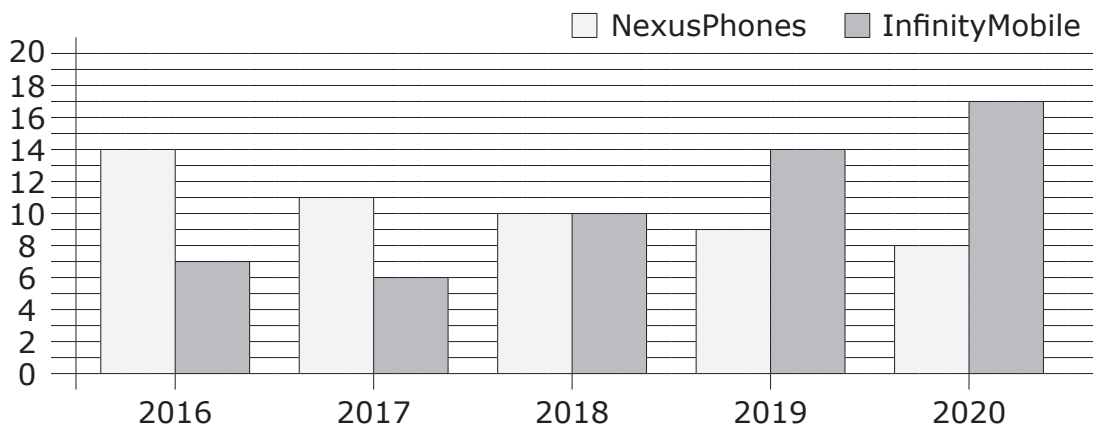
Student C

NexusPhones and InfinityMobile both sell Android phones all over the world. Here are the sales figures in millions of dollars for the **American** market from 2016 to 2020.



Student D

NexusPhones and InfinityMobile both sell Android phones all over the world. Here are the sales figures in millions of dollars for the **European** market from 2016 to 2020.



Company	Year	Asia	Africa	America	Europe	Total
NexusPhones	2016					
	2017					
	2018					
	2019					
	2020					
InfinityMobile	2016					
	2017					
	2018					
	2019					
	2020					

A. What are the trends in sales for NexusPhones in the following places?

1. Asia:
-
2. Africa:
-
3. America:
-
4. Europe:
-
5. Globally:
-

B. What are the trends in sales for InfinityMobile in the following places?

1. Asia:
-
2. Africa:
-
3. America:
-
4. Europe:
-
5. Globally:
-