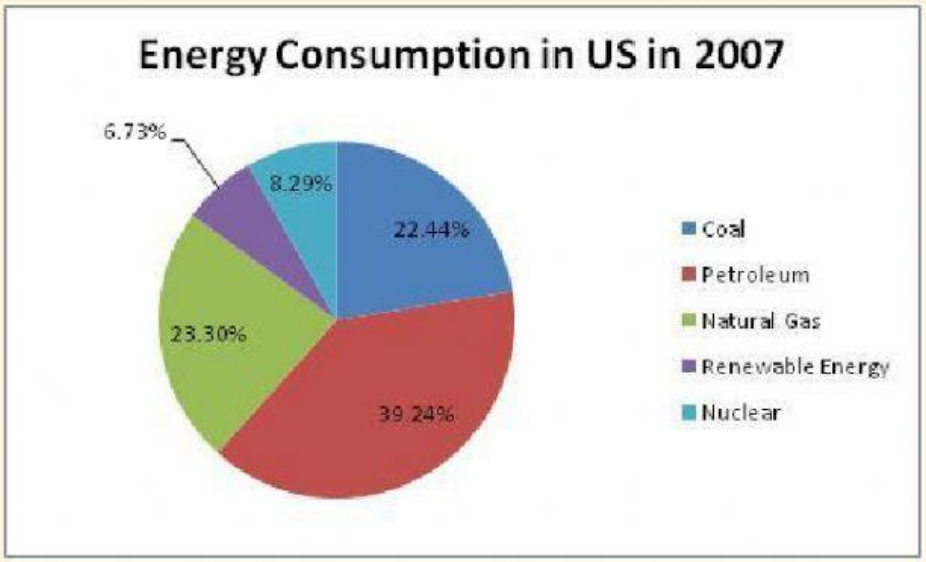
Describing Graphs

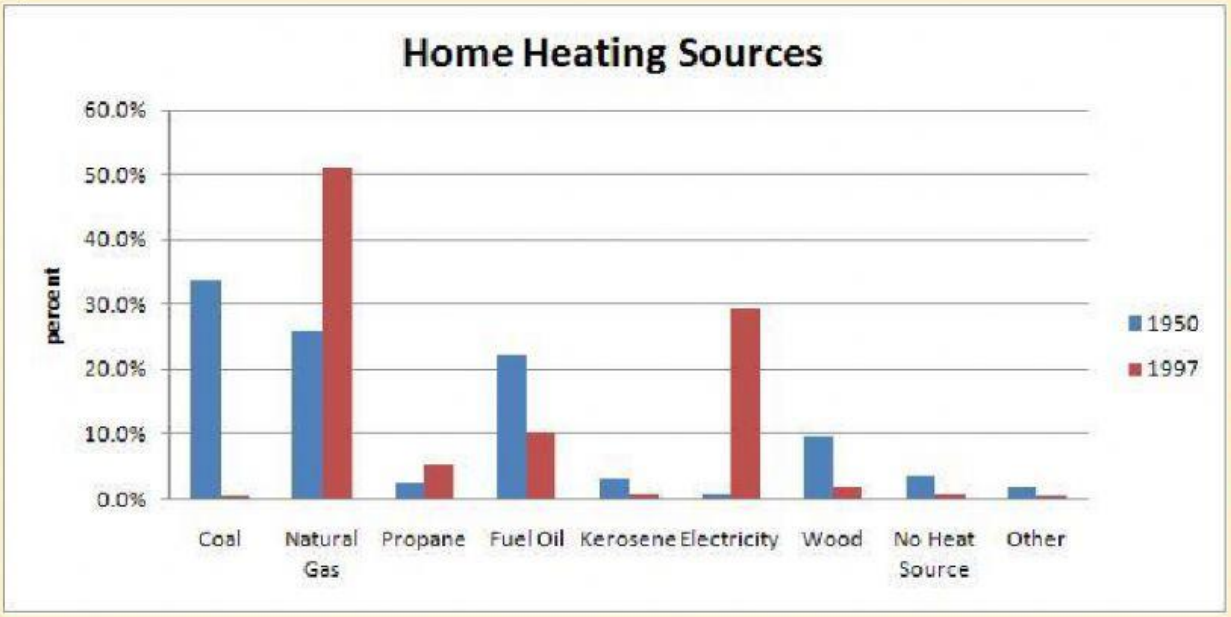
Below are some examples of how to describe different graphs. Remember - you should be able to say something interesting about every graph you make.

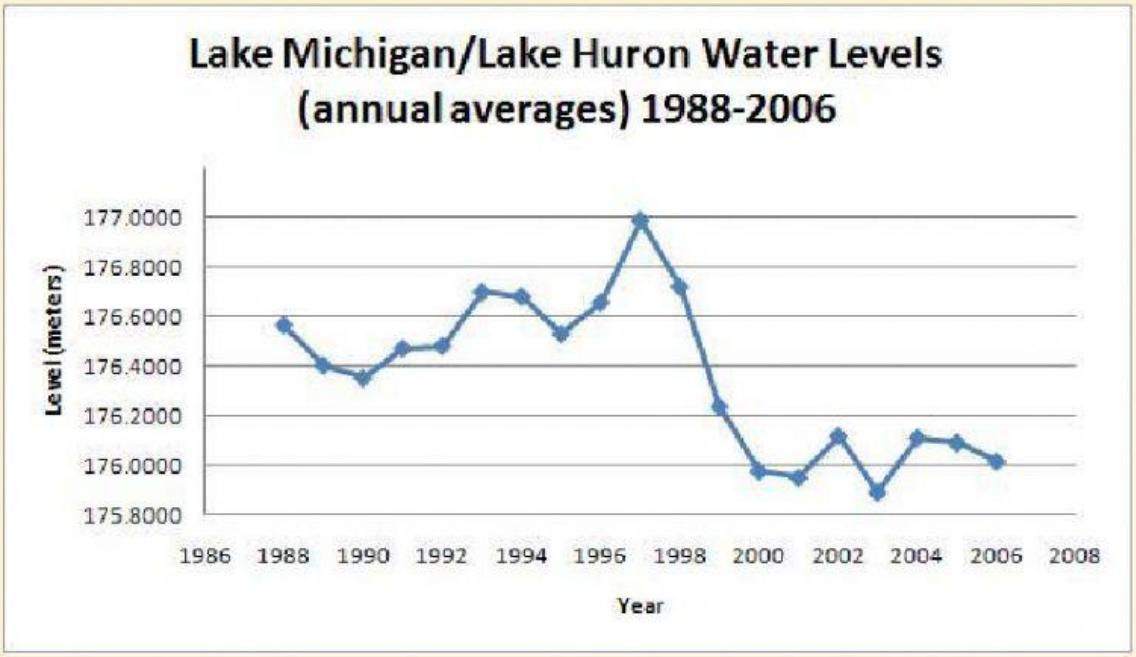
Choose the names of graphs and the related descriptions

1.



2.



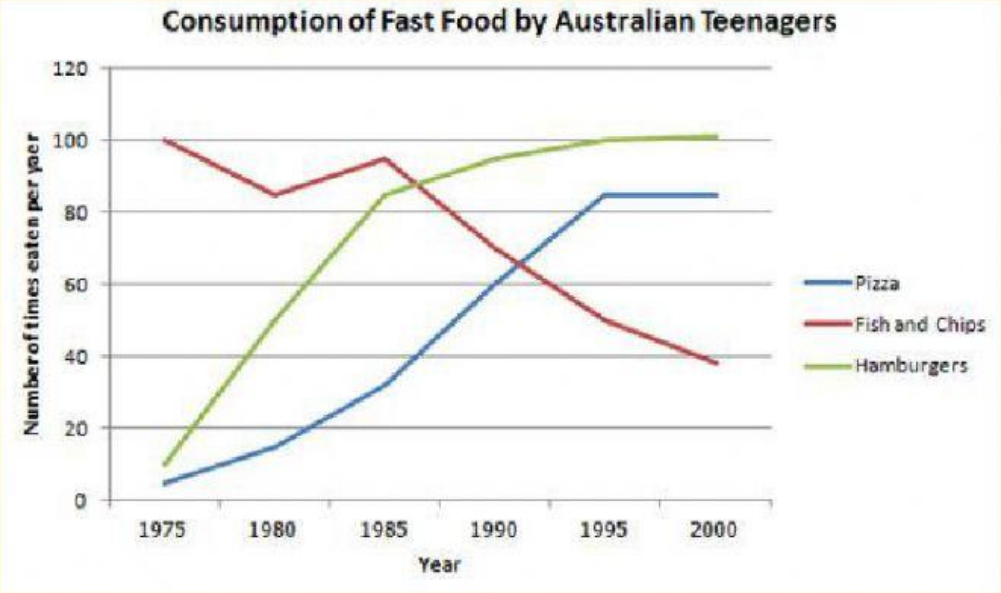
3. 

This graph shows that after 1997 the average level of Lake Michigan decreased significantly. The level started off in 1988 at 176.6 meters and remained roughly constant until it spiked to 177 meters in 1997. After that it decreased sharply until 2001, when it was approximately 176 meters. For the next five years it slightly increased on average, however the most recent trend suggests it will continue decreasing in the future

This pie chart shows the percentages of different types of energy consumed in the US in 2007. Most of our energy, 39.24%, came from petroleum. Our next largest source of energy is a tie between coal and nuclear energy. It is interesting to note that renewable energy, which is healthier for the environment and sustainable, accounts for the smallest percent of our consumption.

In 1950 coal, natural gas, and fuel oil accounted for the highest percentage of home heating sources. By 1997, use of natural gas had soared to become a source for over 50% of home heating. At the same time, use of coal and fuel oil decreased significantly. Electricity grew significantly between the two years as well, accounting for some of the heating that had previously been generated by coal and fuel oil. It is interesting to note that natural gas, electricity, and propane are the only sources that saw an increase between 1950 and 1997. This graph shows that in both years people were heavily dependent on non-renewable sources of energy for their home heating needs.

Task 2.



Look at the graph and arrange the paragraphs in logical order:

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The line graph compares the fast food consumption of teenagers in Australia between 1975 and 2000, a period of 25 years. Overall, the consumption of fish and chips declined over the period, whereas the amount of pizza and hamburgers that were eaten increased.

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In sharp contrast to this, teenagers ate the other two fast foods at much higher levels. Pizza consumption increased gradually until it overtook the consumption of fish and chips in 1990. It then levelled off from 1995 to 2000. The biggest rise was seen in hamburgers as the occasions they were eaten increased sharply throughout the 1970's and 1980's, exceeding that of fish and chips in 1985. It finished at the same level that fish and chips began, with consumption at 100 times a year.

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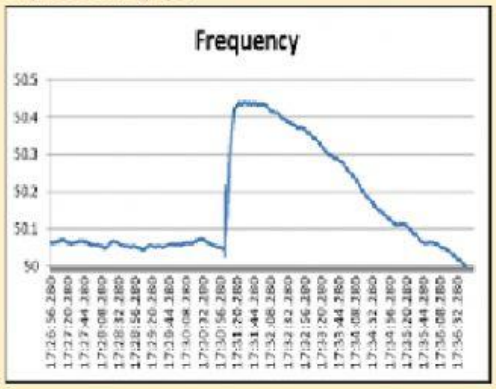
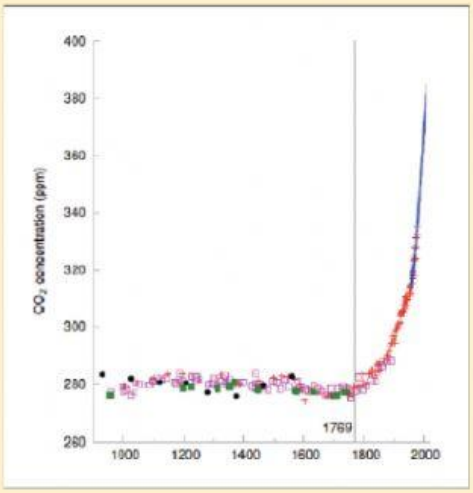
In 1975, the most popular fast food with Australian teenagers was fish and chips, being eaten 100 times a year. This was far higher than Pizza and hamburgers, which were consumed approximately 5 times a year. However, apart from a brief rise again from 1980 to 1985, the consumption of fish and chips gradually declined over the 25 year timescale to finish at just under 40.

Task3.

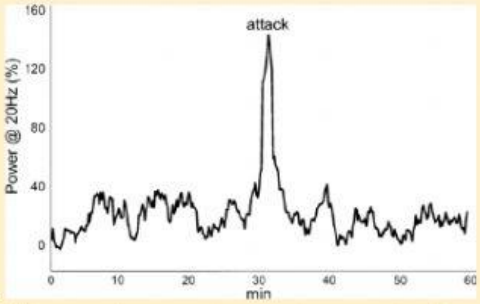
Complete the gaps:

1. 

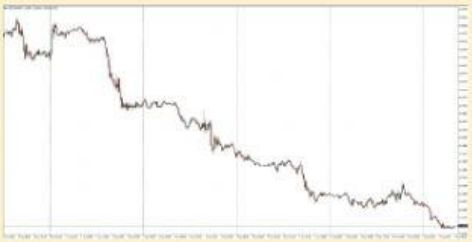
…….. rise and rapid ……

2. 

remain …… or ……

3. 

at 30 we can see a …… increase4. 4.


4. a sharp ……