Opening Statement

Summarize the Information

STRATEGY In the opening statement, you can describe the graphic by paraphrasing the first sentence of Task 1. The paraphrase will summarize the information in the graphic.

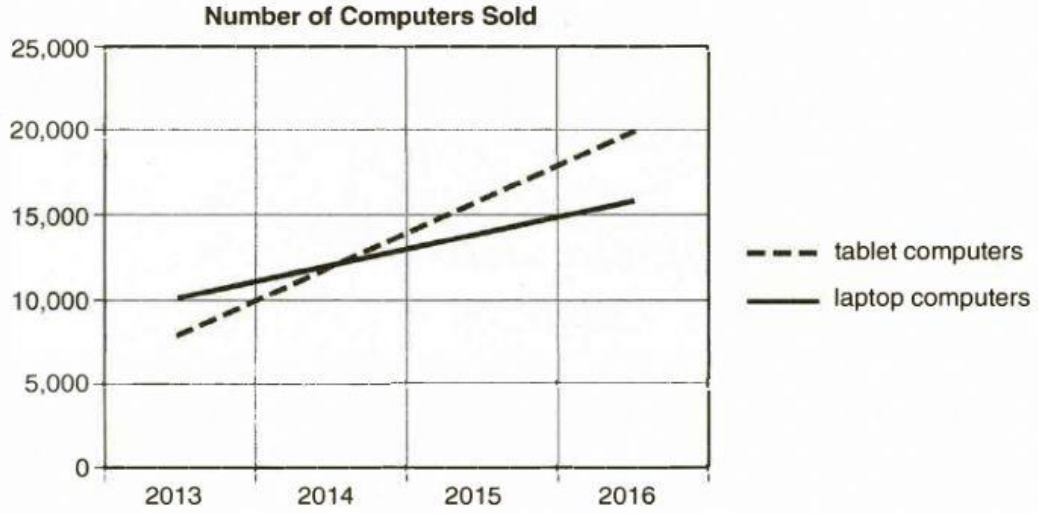
A general description follows the phrase *gives information about*... . Change that general description to a specific description. Ask yourself "What?"

TIP Do NOT repeat the Task exactly as written. Paraphrase or restate the task.

PRACTICE 3 (answers on page 230)

Look at the following charts, graphs, or tables and read the first sentence of the Task. Which statement provides a specific description of the task? Choose the description that most closely matches the chart and that adds more information about the phrase in italics. The first exercise is done for you as a model.

1 The graph below gives information about *computer sales* at the XYZ Company.



Ask yourself: What? What kind of computers? What about the number of computers sold? Are they increasing? Are they decreasing?

A The graph shows increases in sales of laptop and tablet computers over a four-year period.
B The graph gives information about computer sales at the XYZ Company.
C The graph shows computer sales over time.

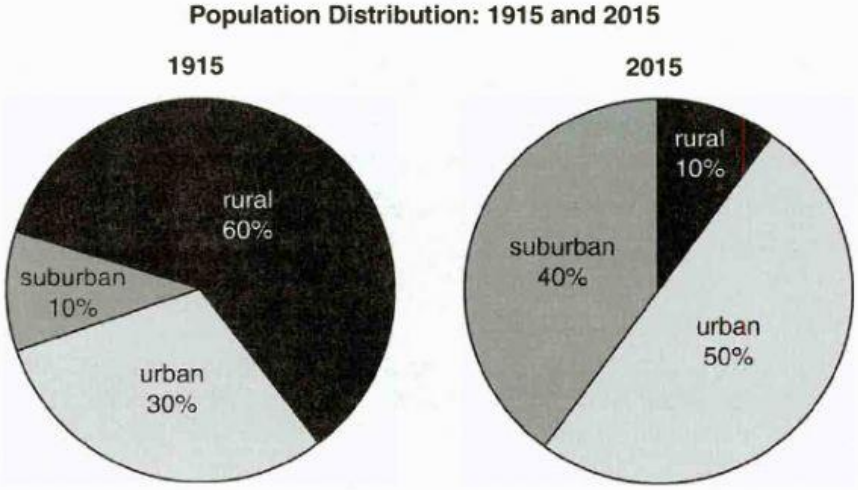
Explanation

Statement **A** is a good opening statement. It provides a complete description and it gives specific information about what the graph shows about computer sales. Computer sales are increasing.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

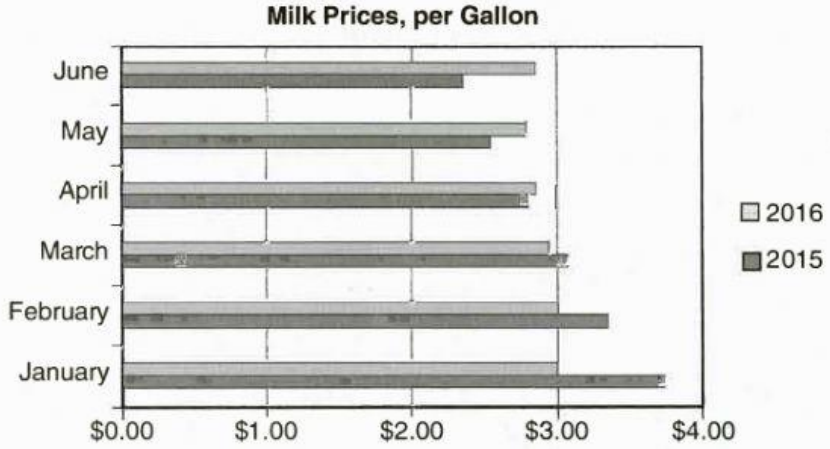
Statement **B** is not a good opening statement. It repeats the task exactly as written.
Statement **C** is incomplete. It includes important information, but it doesn't mention what the graph tells us about computer sales.

2 The charts below show *population distribution* in the northern region in two different years.



A The charts show where people lived in 1915 and 2015.
B The charts show how the distribution of the rural, urban, and suburban population in the northern region has changed in the past century.
C The charts show that the population of the northern region lives in rural, urban, and suburban areas.

3 The graph below gives information about the *price of milk* during two six-month periods.



A The graph shows the price of milk at different times.
B The graph compares the average price of a gallon of milk in the first six months of 2015 and 2016.
C The graph shows how much people had to pay for milk recently.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 The table below shows information about *drivers* and *traffic accidents*.

Drivers Causing Traffic Accidents, by Age

Age Group	15–20 yrs	20–30 yrs	30–40 yrs	40–50 yrs	50–60 yrs	65+ yrs
Percentage of Total Accidents	25%	18%	15%	10%	12%	20%

A The table shows the percentage of traffic accidents caused by drivers in different age groups.
B The table shows that people of different ages cause traffic accidents.
C The table shows how old different drivers are when they have accidents.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

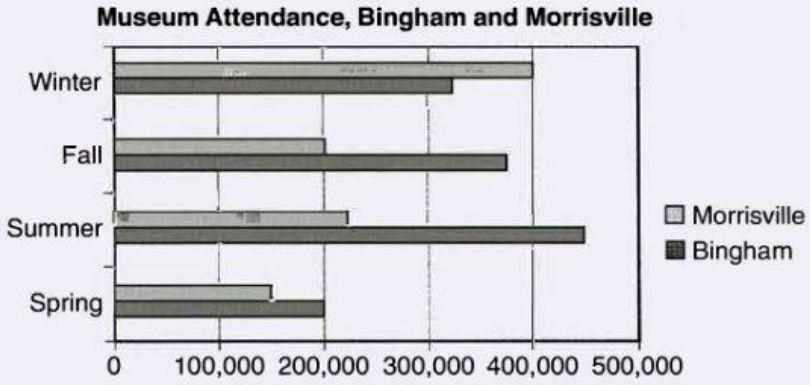
Describe the Graphic Using Time

STRATEGY	In the opening statement, add time to the description of the graphic. You can describe the graphic by restating the first sentence of Task 1 and providing more detail. The detail can be time. Time can be hours, days, years, seasons, or historic periods.
TIP	Not all graphs or charts use time. But if time is part of the chart, you should use it in your restatement.

PRACTICE 4 (answers on page 230)

Look at the following charts, graphs, or tables and read the first sentence of the Task. Write a description restating the sentence and adding details about time. The first exercise is done for you as a model.

1 The graph below shows information about museum attendance in two cities *during the year.*



Ask yourself: When? What are the seasons with the greatest attendance?

A The graph shows the number of people who went to museums last year.
B The graph shows how many people attended museums in each of the four seasons of the year in Bingham and Morrisville.
C The graph shows the changes in museum attendance in Bingham and Morrisville

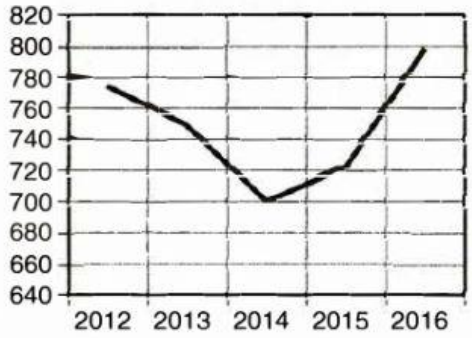
Explanation

Statement **A** is too general. It does not mention the amount of time or the specific cities covered by the chart.
Statement **B** is a good opening statement. It mentions all the important details—what the chart is about, the places, and the periods of time covered.
Statement **C** is incomplete. It does not mention the time frame covered.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 The graph below shows the numbers of students that enrolled in Brownsville College *in different years*.

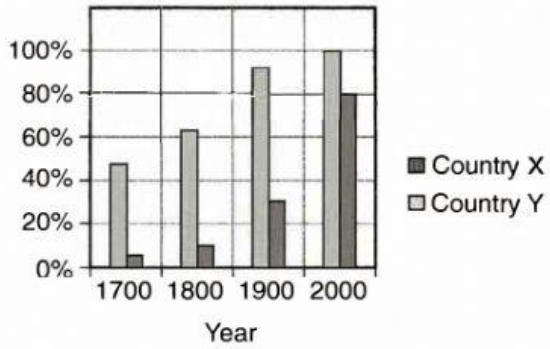
Student Enrollment, Brownsville College



Statement: .....

3 The graph below shows the literacy rates *in the history* of two countries.

Literacy Rates



Statement: .....

4 The table below shows the recorded temperature in Oslo, Norway on the *afternoon of August 10.*

Oslo, August 10

Time	Temperature
1:00 PM	21°
2:00 PM	21°
3:00 PM	21°
4:00 PM	20°
5:00 PM	19°
6:00 PM	18°

Statement: .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Describe the Graphic Using Location

STRATEGY In the opening statement, add location to the description of the graphic.

You can describe the graphic by restating the first sentence of Task 1 and providing more detail. The detail can be location.

TIP Not all graphs or charts are defined by location. But if location is part of the chart, you should use it in your opening statement. Ask yourself: "*Where?*"

PRACTICE 5 (answers on page 231)

Look at the following charts, graphs, or tables and read the first sentence of the Task. Write a description restating the sentence and adding details about location. The first exercise is done for you as a model.

1 The table below shows information about rainfall *in several cities.*

Average Rainfall by City

City	Average Annual Rainfall (inches)
Paris	25
New York	48
Caracas	33
Tokyo	60
Cairo	1
Buenos Aires	33
Sydney	40
Washington, DC	40

Where: Cities in different countries; cities around the world
Ask yourself: Where?

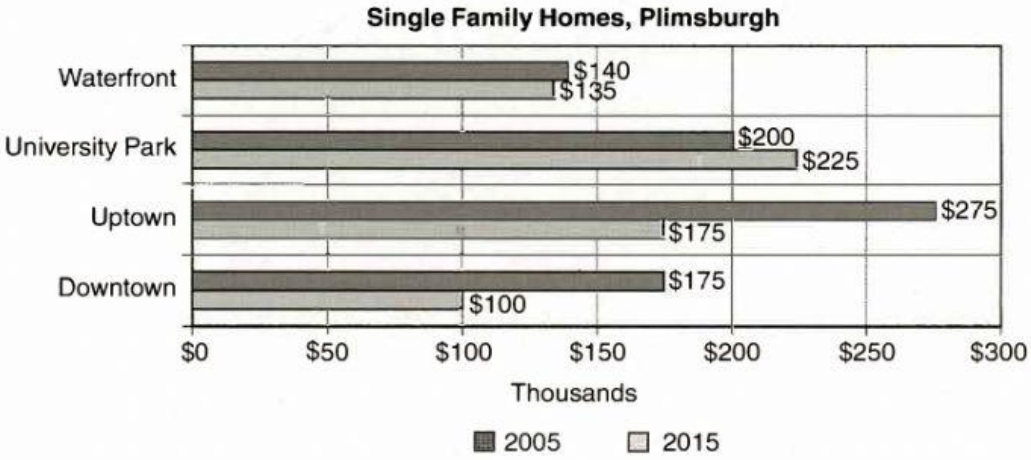
A The table shows the average rainfall in several different cities around the world, in inches.
B The table shows how much rain falls on average in different places.
C The table shows the average rainfall in Paris.

Explanation

Statement **A** is a good opening statement. It is a complete description of the content of the table, including a specific description of the places.
Statement **B** is missing a specific description of the places shown on the table.
Statement **C** is incomplete. It only mentions one of the places covered on the table.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 The graph below gives information about average housing prices throughout *the city of Plimsburgh*.



Statement: .....

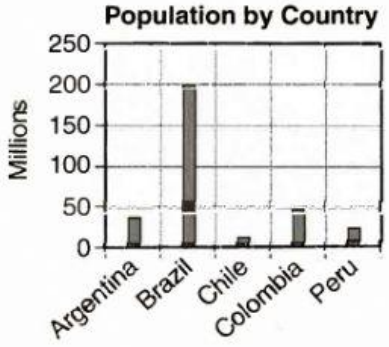
3 The table below shows information about the *number of bird species* found in Plimsburgh Park.

Bird Species, Plimsburgh Park

Area	No. of Species Sighted
Lake and shore	17
Woods	26
Field	14
Parking lot	10

Statement: .....

4 The graph below gives information about the population of *several different countries*.

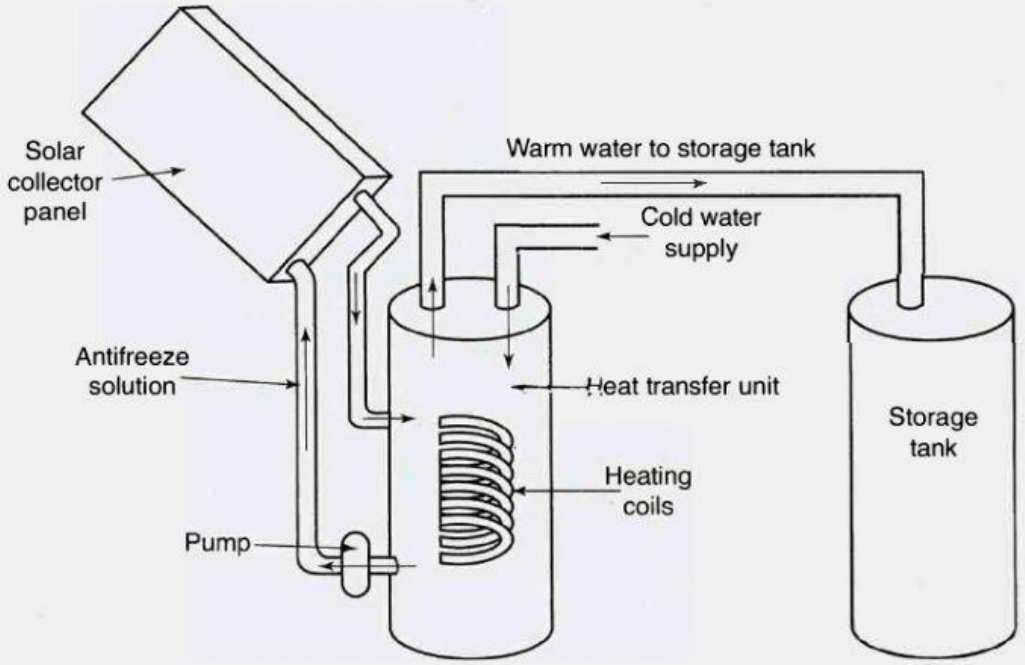


Statement: .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Describe a Process Diagram

STRATEGY	In the opening statement, tell the purpose of the diagram from start to finish. You can describe the graphic by restating the first sentence of Task 1 and providing more detail.
TIP	Use synonyms to avoid repeating the exact wording of the task.



Statement: The diagram shows a method for warming water by using an indirect solar water heating system.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRACTICE 6 (answers on page 231)

Rewrite the opening statement replacing the underlined words with synonyms from the box. Not all the words will be used. This will help you practice finding synonyms when you paraphrase. The first one has been done for you as a model.

Synonyms	
grains	reducing
transportation	vehicles
making	steps
vegetables	removing
introduction	

The diagram below gives information about the shipping of live animals.

1 The diagram gives information about the transportation of live animals.

The diagram below shows the stages of the brick manufacturing process.

2 .....

The diagram below shows the process of extracting juice from sugar cane in order to make granulated sugar.

3 .....

The diagram below shows the process of manufacturing cars and trucks.

4 .....

The diagram below shows the stages in the preparation of fresh produce for market.

5 .....

The diagram below shows the process of producing park benches from recycled plastic bottles.

6 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS