

Using the right prepositions

It is important to use the right preposition when you are reporting the features and describing the numbers, prepositions like to, by, with and at when describing numbers and figures. Here are some examples to give you a basic idea of the differences:

1. Use **to** when describing what happened to the number:

In 2008, the rate of unemployment rose to 10%.

2. Use **by** when describing the amount of change between two numbers:

In 2009, the rate of unemployment fell by 2% (from 10% to 8%).

3. Use **with** to give the idea of 'having' the number:

He won the election with 52% of the vote.

4. Use **at** to add the number on the end of a sentence:

Unemployment reached its highest level in 2008, at 10%.

Exercise: Complete the sentences choosing the right preposition from the list below.

for	at	on	to	in	by	from	between
of	up	down		with		and	during

1. 1990 2000, there was a drop 15%.
2. GM car sales peaked 2,000 in 1999.
3. The chart shows a decline 35% the bird population.
4. There has been a significant increase the number of people aged over eighty.
5. There have been dramatic cuts the level of spending on the elderly, reaching a low 11%.
6. Profits rose a low of 4.5 million to a high of 8 million in 2008.
7. Canada and Australia's wheat exports fluctuated 5 million and 6 million respectively.
8. There were significant improvements healthcare 1980.
9. The statistics show a reduction 20% energy costs as a result the measures.
10. Profits fell 10%, from 2,000 to 1,800 in 1970s.
11. The radio station experienced a fall 36,000 listeners to a total audience 2.1 million.

12. The number of students fell a low of 1,500 in the second half of the year.
13. Cases of AIDS shot from 2,400 in 1996 to 4,000 in 2004.
14. Demand reached a peak 45,000 in early March.
15. The number of cars sold remained unchanged in 1999 three million.
16. Students do between three four hours homework a night.
17. The number of accidents 1999 was slightly higher than that of 2000.
18. The figure rose steadily the four years between 1997 2001.
19. Oil production rose dramatically at first but then leveled out \$70 a barrel.
20. There was an increase 50,000 between 1990 and 1992.
21. 1994 1997, sales rose steadily over 20,000.
22. DVD sales peaked 60,000 1992 but then decreased about 10,000 over the next two years.
23. In the year 2000, sales started 10,000. In the first month, there was a rise around 2,000.
24. After some fluctuations, sales in 2000 reached their peak just over 15,000, a rise 5,000 since the beginning of the year. Sales increased over 10,000 between 1994 and 1997, but then dropped more than 10,000 1997 and 1999.
25. In 2008, the rate of unemployment rose 10%.
26. In 2008, the rate of unemployment rose 10%, from 2,000 to 2,200 cases.
27. There was a slight rise the number of men employed.
28. Experts expect there to be a fall approximately 30% over the next decade.
29. The introduction DVDs led to a decline 20% video sales.
30. The figures show a drop 5% student numbers.
31. The health service program spent a total \$2.5 billion on staffing April 2002.
32. The survey hopes to track trends consumer spending.
33. In 2009, the rate of unemployment fell 2% (from 10% to 8%).
34. He won the election 52% of the vote.
35. Unemployment reached its highest level the year 2008 10%.
36. 2002, the cost of an average house in the UK was around £130,000. 2007, the average house price had risen almost £190,000, but it fell back just under £150,000 2008.
37. Japan two gold medals and a silver one stood ahead of the US one gold and one bronze medal 1968.