*1 Read the description again and find phrases in **bold** which mean…*

went up and down frequently
did not change (2 phrases)
went up a little (2 phrases)
went up very quickly (2 phrases)
arrived at its highest point
went up noticeably over a period
went down (2 phrases)
went down gradually over a period

In the last activity, there were some useful phrases for describing increases and decreases. Here are two sentence structures for doing this:

1 noun phrase + verb + adverb

For example:

noun phrase +	**verb +**	**adverb**
The unemployment rate	rose	rapidly
The cost of living	fell	dramatically

2 There is/are + noun phrase

For example:

There is/are +	**+ noun phrase**
There was	a rise in unemployment
There has been	an increase in the cost of living

2 Finish each sentence below so that it means the same as the one given.

1 The price of oil rose sharply.
There……

2 There is a noticeable increase in temperature from May onwards.
Temperature……

3 The number of people attending the theatre has fallen dramatically.
There……

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4 There had been a steady rise in DVD sales during the first six months of the year.

DVD sales……

5 There has been a rapid growth in the use of alternative energy sources.

The use of alternative energy sources……

6 The popularity of self-catering holidays decreased significantly during the 1990s.

There……

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BRITISH COUNCIL IELTS

Academic Writing Task 1

Worksheet 2

Making approximations

It can be difficult to use exact numbers when describing charts. A useful strategy for dealing with this is making approximations.
*For example, if sales figures for oranges rose from 4000 kilos to 7850 kilos, you can say 'orange sales **almost doubled**'.*

1 *Here are some useful words and phrases for making approximations. Match phrases with the same meaning.*

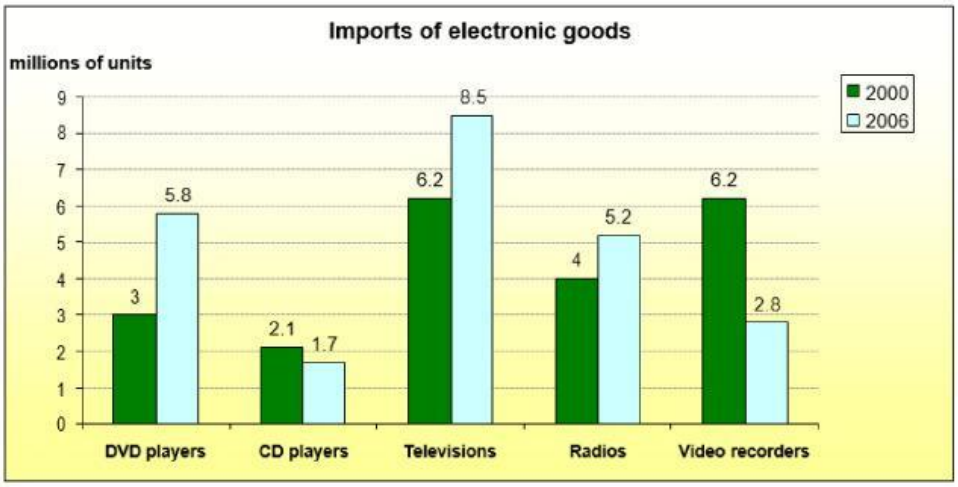
1 just over	**a** around
2 approximately	**b** nearly
3 just under	**c** slightly more than

2 *Now write sentences about the following bar chart, which shows changes in the quantities of imports of certain electronic goods. Use the words in the boxes.*

just over
approximately
just under around
nearly slightly
more than

halved doubled tripled
fell by rose by
a quarter a third

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1 (DVD players)

.....

.....

2 (CD players)

.....

.....

3 (Televisions)

.....

.....

4 (Radios)

.....

.....

5 (Video recorders)

.....

.....

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