Practice Worksheet

Topic: Percentage of government spending on roads and transport (1990–2005)

Reference Data Table (% of Government Spending on Roads and Transport)

Refer to the figures below to complete all exercises in this worksheet.

Country	1990	1995	2000	2005
Italy	20%	~16%	~13%	~14%
Portugal	~27%	20%	~17%	16%
UK	~11%	13%	~7%	~8%
USA	~13%	~12%	~14%	~13%

EXERCISE 1: WORD FORM & COLLOCATION

Type the correct form of the words in brackets into each box.

1. In Italy, the percentage of government expenditure on roads and transport _____ (fall / steady) from 20% in 1990 to approximately 13% in 2000.
2. There was a _____ (gradual / decline) in Portugal's transport budget from around 27% to 16% over the 15-year period.
3. Between 1995 and 2000, the UK experienced a _____ (sharp / drop) in spending on roads and transport, falling by roughly half.
4. The proportion of government spending in the USA _____ (fluctuate / slight) between 12% and 14% from 1990 to 2005.
5. A _____ (moderate / rise) was recorded in the UK's transport spending from around 11% in 1990 to 13% in 1995.
6. From 2000 to 2005, Italy's expenditure on roads and transport _____ (recover / marginal) from roughly 13% to 14%.
7. Overall, Portugal saw the most _____ (significant / reduce) in its transport spending rate across the four countries.

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8. Between 1990 and 2005, the USA's spending figure _____ (remain / relative / stable) at around 13%.

Exercise 2: Prepositions of Data & Time

Type ONE suitable preposition from the word bank into each box.

1. In 1990, government spending on roads and transport in Italy stood _____ exactly 20%.
2. Between 1990 and 1995, the figure for Portugal dropped _____ around 27% _____ 20%, which was a decrease _____ 7%.
3. From 1995 to 2000, the percentage of transport expenditure in the UK fell _____ nearly 6%, bottoming out _____ around 7%.
4. Overall, the spending rate in the USA varied slightly _____ 12% and 14% throughout the period.
5. There was a slight increase _____ around 1% in Italy's transport spending _____ 2000 and 2005.
6. _____ the 15-year period, Portugal's spending on roads and transport declined _____ a total of 11%, finishing _____ 16% in 2005.
7. In the UK, the proportion of transport expenditure peaked _____ 13% in 1995 before falling _____ roughly 7% five years later.

Exercise 3: Error Correction

Each sentence contains ONE mistake in grammar, preposition, or word choice. Rewrite the corrected sentence or phrase in the box below.

1. There was a **dramatically decrease** in the spending rate of Portugal from 27% to 16%.

2. The percentage of transport spending in the UK **dropped of** nearly 6% between 1995 and 2000.

3. The period from 1990 to 2000 **was witnessed** a steady fall in Italy's transport expenditure.

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4. Starting at 27% in 1990, Portugal's spending rate **was decreased** steadily to 16% in 2005.

5. The UK's expenditure on roads and transport **bottomed out at a trough of** 7% in 2000.

6. **Having starting** at 20% in 1990, Italy's spending fell steadily over the next ten years.

EXERCISE 4: DIRECT DESCRIPTION — SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

Rewrite each given sentence into the other 3 sentence patterns while keeping the same meaning and data.

> **Set A — Original (Pattern 1: S + V + adv):** The percentage of government spending on roads and transport in Italy decreased considerably from 20% to approximately 13% between 1990 and 2000.

1. Pattern 2 (Dummy Subject — There was...):

2. Pattern 3 (Time Expression as Subject — The period between...):

3. Pattern 4 (Passive Voice — ...was seen/recorded...):

> **Set B — Original (Pattern 2: There was + adj + N):** There was a sharp drop of around 6% in the UK's transport spending from 1995 to 2000.

4. Pattern 1 (S + V + adv):

5. Pattern 3 (The 5-year period from...):

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6. Pattern 4 (Passive Voice):

Exercise 5: Indirect Description (Starting Figure First → Trend Second)

Complete each sentence by stating the starting figure first, followed by the subsequent trend using the prompt.

1. *(Data: UK 1990 ~11% → 1995: 13% | Use relative clause: **which**)*
   The percentage of transport spending in the UK stood at around 11% in 1990,
2. *(Data: UK 1995: 13% → 2000: ~7% | Use: **before + V-ing**)*
   Government expenditure on roads and transport in the UK reached a peak of about 13% in 1995,
3. *(Data: UK 1995: 13% → 2000: ~7% | Use: **followed by + Noun Phrase**)*
   Roads and transport accounted for roughly 13% of the UK's government budget in 1995,
4. *(Data: Portugal 1990 ~27% → 1995: 20% | Use relative clause: **which**)*
   Portugal spent approximately 27% of its government budget on roads and transport in 1990,
5. *(Data: Italy 2000 ~13% → 2005: ~14% | Start with prepositional phrase: **At...**)*
   At roughly 13% in 2000,

Exercise 6: Advanced Sentence Combining

Combine each set of simple sentences into ONE complex or compound sentence using the structure in brackets.

1. **Same Subject (Use: Having PII + before V-ing):** Italy's spending on roads and transport started at 20% in 1990. It fell steadily to about 13% in 2000. It recovered slightly to roughly 14% in 2005.

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2. **Same Subject (Use: After V-ing + before V-ing):** The UK's spending rate began at around 11% in 1990. It rose moderately to 13% in 1995. It plunged to roughly 7% in 2000.

3. **Different Subjects (Use: , after which + Clause):** The period from 1990 to 1995 saw a slight increase in the UK's transport spending (from 11% to 13%). The figure plunged by almost half to around 7% in 2000.

4. **Different Subjects (Use: , followed by + Noun Phrase):** There was a sharp drop in Portugal's transport budget between 1990 and 1995 (from 27% to 20%). The spending rate experienced a more gradual decline to 16% in 2005.

5. **Relative Clause (Use: , which...):** There was a continuous decline in Portugal's transport expenditure from 1990 onwards. The figure hit a trough of 16% in 2005.

EXERCISE 7: WRITE FULL TREND DESCRIPTIONS

Write 2–3 complete sentences for each country based on the chart data. Combine Direct Description, Indirect Description, and Advanced Sentence Structures.

1. **Portugal (1990: ~27% → 1995: 20% → 2000: ~17% → 2005: 16%)**
   Hint: Use an Indirect Description sentence for 1990–1995, then a Direct or Advanced sentence for 1995–2005.

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2. **UK (1990: ~11% → 1995: 13% → 2000: ~7% → 2005: ~8%)**

   Hint: Combine the first three years using "Having PII... before V-ing", then write one sentence for the slight recovery in 2005.

3. **USA (1990: ~13% → 1995: ~12% → 2000: ~14% → 2005: ~13%)**

   Hint: Describe the minor fluctuation between 12% and 14%, mentioning the starting and ending figures.

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