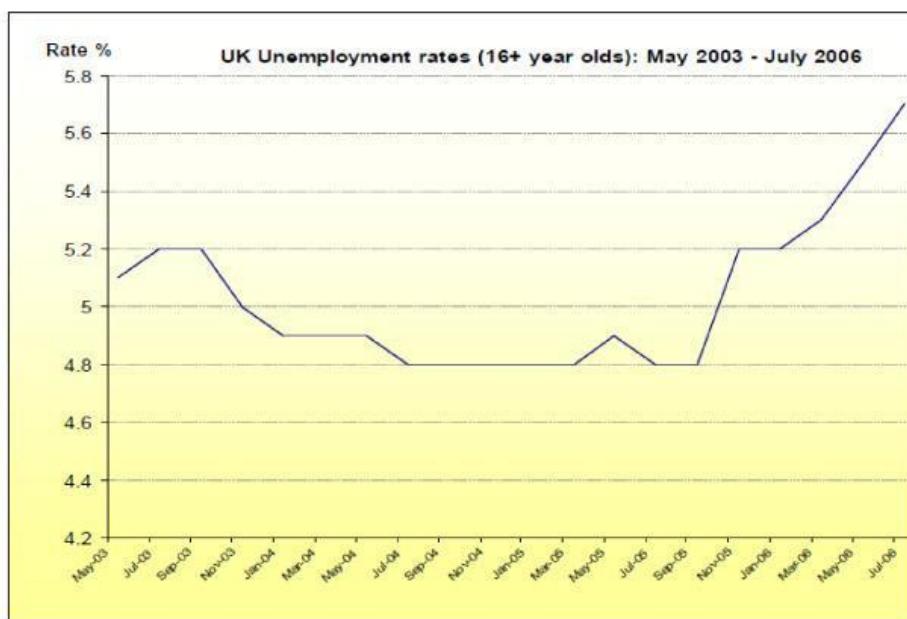


Academic Writing Task 1

Worksheet 1

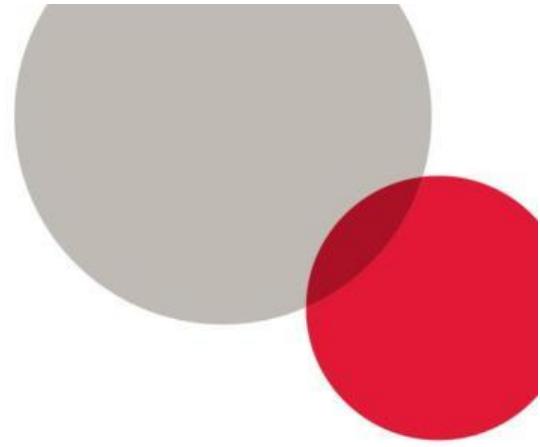
Describing increases and decreases (1)

Look at the line graph below and read the description.



Body paragraph

At the beginning of the period, unemployment stood at nearly 5.1 per cent. A few months later, the figure **had risen slightly** to 5.2 per cent. Unemployment then **remained stable** until September 2003. From this point on, **there was a steady downward trend** and by January 2004, the rate **had fallen** to around 4.9 per cent. It **stayed at this level** until May the same year, but from May to July **there was another small drop** of 1 per cent. There were no further changes in the level of unemployment until March the following year. From March to May 2005, **there was a small increase** of 1 per cent, but this did not last long, and the figure had fallen back to 4.8 per cent by July. From September 2005 onwards, however, **there was a marked upward trend** in the rate of unemployment in the UK. From September 2005 to November the same year, **the figure shot up** from 4.8 to 5.2 per cent. The rate remained stable for a few months, but then **rose sharply** again, and had **reached a peak** of approximately 5.7 per cent by July 2006.



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.

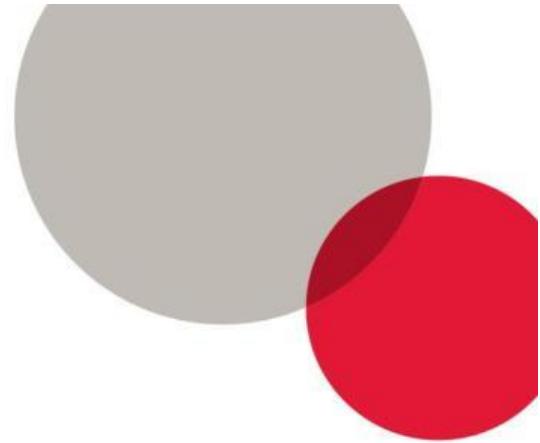
There.....

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

Temperature.....

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

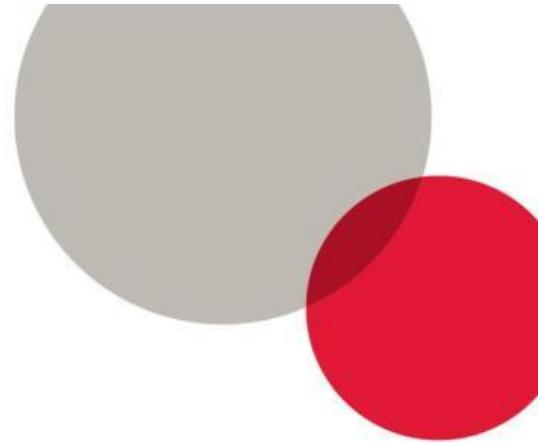
There.....



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.....



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.

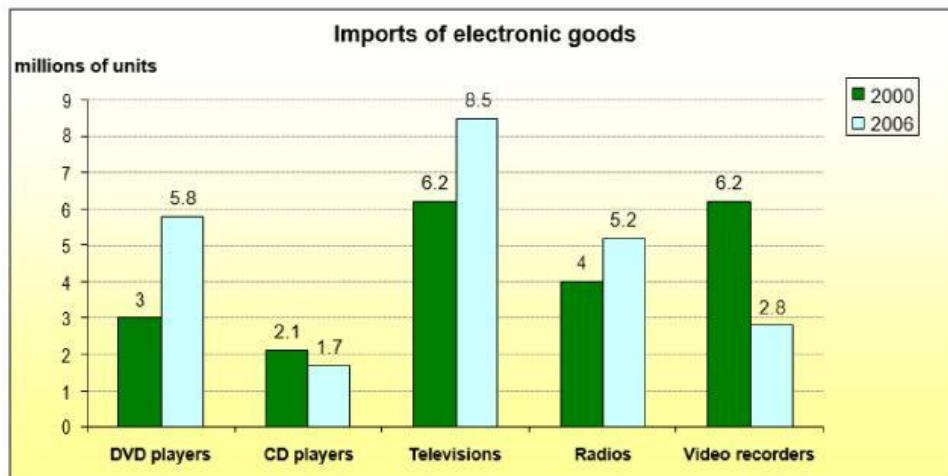
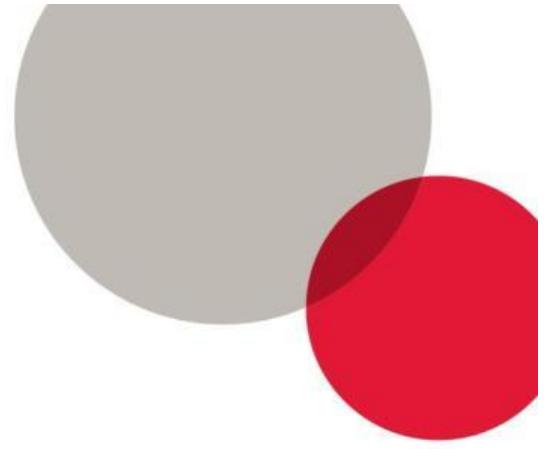
1 just over a around

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



1 (DVD players)

.....

.....

2 (CD players)

.....

.....

3 (Televisions)

.....

.....

4 (Radios)

.....

.....

5 (Video recorders)

.....

.....