INTERPRETING CHARTS*

Chart: a sheet giving information in tabular form

Graph: a diagram (as a series of one or more points, lines, line segments, curves, or areas) that represents the variation of a variable in comparison with that of one or more other variables

Diagram: a graphic design that explains rather than represents; especially: a drawing that shows arrangement and relations (as of parts)

(adapted from: http://www.m-w.com/)

Types of charts:

- **bar chart**
- **pie chart**
- **a table**

**line graph**

While interpreting a chart you should consider the following questions:

a. What kind of data does the chart show?
b. Does it show any tendencies or trends?
c. Is it possible to make a generalization based on the chart?
d. Do you find any information in the chart amusing, interesting or surprising?
e. Does any of the information in the chart relate to your life experience? If so, how?

(adapted from *Advance Intermediate*, PWN 2003)

**Expressions:**

to drop
to go up from …% to … % (per cent)
to decrease/ increase by … %
to decline / to fall
to rise / to gain
to slump / to plummet
to rocket/ to peak
to halve / to double / to triple
to level off
to recover/ to improve/ to fluctuate

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