Graph Description

Types of graphs

- Histogram/ vertical bar-chart (side-by-side or stacked)
- Horizontal bar-chart
- Line graph (data point connected with straight-line segments)
- Curve
- Scattergram/ scatterplot (+ line or curve of best-fit/ regression line)
- Circle (to show contributions)

Description of data

- Defined input => predictable output
- Information transfer

- Speculated explanations that lie outside the given data **X**
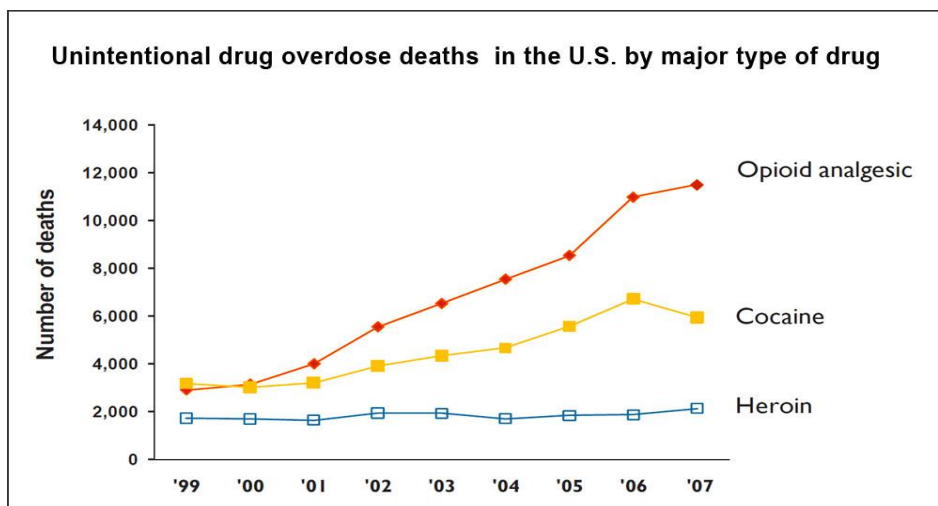
Vocabulary used for the description of graphs

- Increase/ rise/ go up to ~
- Decrease/ drop/ go down to ~
- Reach a plateau/a stable value/ stabilise/ remain the same/ stay the same
- Peak/ highest point/ highest value
- Lowest point/ lowest value
- Replicates/ Mean ± standard deviation

Exercise:

The graph below shows unintentional drug overdose deaths in the US from 1999 to 2007.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Comparison and Contrast

Comparison – use in sentences

1. Equivalence
2. Non-equivalence
3. One item compared with others
4. Parallel increase

1. Equivalence

The following words/ expressions are used to show similarities :

- As + adj/ adv + as
- As much/ many as …
- Similar to …
- As well as
- Like
- Both/all

Examples:

At first sight, a CD is similar to a DVD.

CDs are as thick as DVDs.

2. Non-equivalence

The following words / expressions are used to differences:

- Not as +adj + as
- Adj + er +than
- More/ less …than
- Fewer than…
- Not as many/ much …as
- Compared to/ with

3. The superlative

The following expressions are used to show one item compared with others:

- The adj + est
- The most …..
- The least …..

4. Parallel increase

Two comparatives:

The (adj + er) the…. The more/ the less ….

- The more I rest, the better I feel.
- The more I study, the more I know.
- The more memory you have on your computer, the faster you'll be able to load your files.
- The smaller the device, the more money it costs.

Sometimes the subject and the verb (to be) are omitted:

- The sooner, the better.
- The less said about it, the better.

Exercise:

Use the following sentences to form parallel increase constructions:

- As I forgot a lot, I know a little.
- As I searched a great deal, I found a great amount of information.
- Because the rates are low, there are a lot of borrowers.
- Because you plan a little, your experiences are bad.

Contrast:

In addition to the use of words/ constructions , connectors are used to show the differences :

- But
- However
- On the other hand
- Although/ even though
- Whereas/ while
- Unlike