Talking Stats: The Talker and the Listener

A) DESCRIBING

- 1. The **Talker** looks at a chart very carefully and then describes to the **Listener** what s/he sees. The **Listener** draws the chart on squared paper. The **Talker** must make sure that the **Listener** draws and writes down what s/he, the **Talker**, sees. The **Listener** may ask for clarification and the **Talker** will answer but does not gesture or point.
- 2. The **Talker** and the **Listener** compare their two charts, the original and the new one. They correct and/or complete the new chart together.

B) ANALYSING ['----]

Now working in pairs or on your own, find out what these charts mean and put it into complete sentences. Use the terms and phrases in the boxes below. Make sure you get the tenses right, e.g. in 1970 \Rightarrow past tense; since 1970 \Rightarrow present perfect.

<u>Opening phrases</u>: This chart... / this table / this line graph is about... It was published by... (newspaper, magazine / organisation) in (month, day, year).

<u>Closing phrases</u>: A first look at this chart seems to suggest that... / Looking more closely, however, shows that... / The facts suggest that... / The conclusion to be drawn is...

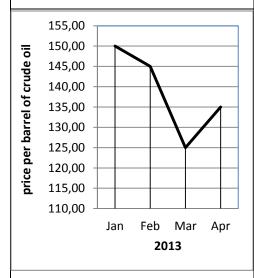
Line Graphs

	⊅ Up?		☑ Or down?	How?	By how much?
71	to increase, rise, go up, grow by x%; to peak at	ע	to drop, fall, decrease, go down, shrink by x%, to bottom out at	gradually slowly, over time	by a (relatively) good, steady, healthy, strong x%
קק	to jump , shoot up, explode, soar, sky- rocket	עע	to crash, plum- met, dive, col- lapse,	quickly, fast, rapidly, dramatically	by a lot ; by a surprising, staggering, massive 17%
$\rightarrow \rightarrow$	to remain the same / to flatline, level off, plateau (out) ['] at	~~~~	to come in waves / to ebb and flow	more or less, evenly	(by) (very) little , by a very small amount
W	to fluctuate , double-dip, zigzag, wobble		wildly, danger- ously, worryingly	by a huge, a shocking, a stagger- ing sum of or amount of 70%	
	a dent, a dip; a U-shaped (V-shaped) dip, a downturn followed by an upswing – a trough (rhymes with 'off')				

	FIGURES	FRACTIONS					
12, 13, 15, 35, 44, 100	1/2, ½, ⅔, ⅔, ⅔,	half a, one third, two thirds, two fifths					
Time: month, quarter, year, decade, century, a thousand years (= a millennium), one million, a billion years; for three days, since Thursday 1/12, 1/4, 1, 10, 10 10 ³ , 10 ⁶ , 10 ⁹ years							

TENSES									
past present perfect		present	future						
Millennia ago, / in the past, there were few people around.	The number of / the amount of has been rising for decades /since 1760 Since there has been an increase in	Right now the situation looks settled / unstable	Birth rates will probably fall / Prices / levels will go up. / The sooner, the better						

EXPLAINING CHARTS



This <u>line chart</u> shows how... has changed since 2012; for the last few weeks.

In January prices were still rising by as much as... Back then the **growth rate** slowed down to 1,5% with prices levelling off at x \$ / with prices **falling to a** (new) **low** of..., when prices **reached a high** (point) of..., a **turning point** in February..., before **falling to a** (record) **low** of... So, it becomes clear that...; it follows that...

The more... markets worry, the higher prices rise...

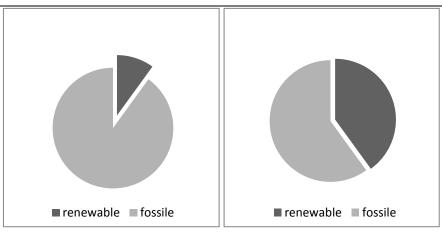
Too little supply / too much demand makes prices rise.

The outlook for the future is... gloomy, bright...

We can draw the conclusion that... the gap between demand and supply is widening... prices have risen disproportionately...

COMPARISONS

of pie charts and bar diagrams, vertical and horizontal



This pie chart shows how... While in 2000 the biggest share of... was..., the share of... will grow / is expected to grow in the future because...
By 2040 the share of... / will provide a bigger proportion of global demand than expected...

source: Co₂al International

* source: Wishful Thinktank

□ 2nd language □ native speakers □ 1 2 3

...This horizontal bar chart illustrates the fact that in our globalizing world English is spoken mostly as a second language whereas only 60 years ago the majority of speakers were American or British...