

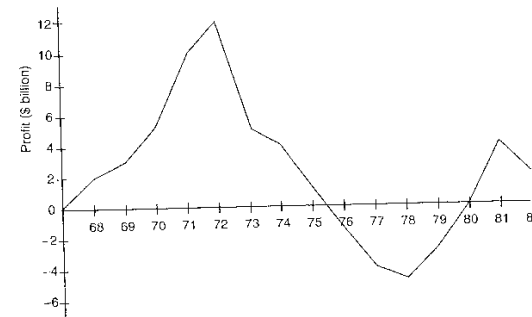
Describing Graphs

Here are the words and phrases you need to talk about trends using graphs. Make sure you can translate these into your own language.

UP – verbs				
go up	take off	shoot up	soar	jump
increase	rise	grow	improve	rocket
UP – nouns				
an increase	a rise	a growth	an improvement	
an upturn	a surge	an upsurge	an upward trend	
DOWN – verbs				
go/come down	fall	fall off	drop	slump
decline	decrease	slip	plummet	shrink
DOWN – nouns				
a fall	a decrease	a decline	a drop	
a downturn	a downward trend			
NO CHANGE – verbs				
remain stable	level off	stay at the same level		
remain constant	stagnate	stabilise		
AT THE TOP – verbs				
reach a peak	peak	top out		
AT THE BOTTOM – verbs				
reach a low point	bottom out	recover		
DEGREES OF CHANGE				
Adjectives:	dramatic, considerable, sharp, significant, substantial, moderate, slight			
Adverbs:	dramatically, considerably, sharply, significantly, substantially, moderately, slightly			
SPEED OF CHANGE				
abrupt	sudden	rapid	quick	steadily
			gradual	slow
PREPOSITIONS				
a rise from £1m to £2m	to increase by 50%			
to fall by 30%	an increase of 7.5 per cent over last year			

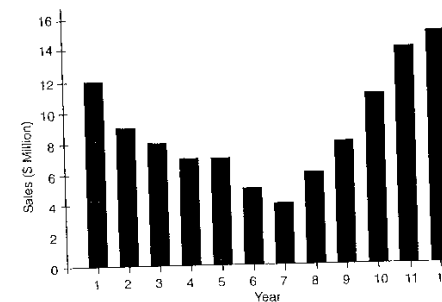
Study the following graphs. Complete the descriptions with information from them and language from the previous page. Several answers are possible. Check your answers with those in the answer key or discuss them with your teacher.

GRAPH 1 Profits 1967–1982



The company came out of the red in 1968 after which there was a (1) in profits every year for four years. Profits reached (2) in 1972, but in 1973, the year of the oil crisis, there was a (3) The (4) trend in 1974 was smaller, but after that profits continued to (5) for four years. The company made a \$5 billion loss in 1978, after which the figures (6) for three years, before (7) again in 1982.

GRAPH 2 Sales Years 1–12



The year after we took over the company sales were good, at \$12m, but the second year they (1) In fact, they dropped (2) 25%. Sales (3) for another two years, (4) for one year, and then (5) again twice. Since then, there has been a (6) growth for five years. In fact in just four years, sales rose (7) \$4m (8) \$14m, an increase (9) 250%.

6.3 Describing Graphs

Graph 1: Answers marked with an asterisk (*) are only one of several possibilities: 1* significant improvement; 2 a peak; 3* substantial decline; 4 downward; 5* fall sharply; 6* improved dramatically; 7* falling off.

Graph 2: Answers marked with an asterisk (*) are only one of several possibilities: 1* fell dramatically; 2 by; 3* slipped; 4* levelled off; 5* went down; 6* rapid; 7 from; 8 to; 9 of.