Analyzing Graphs and Charts

Communicative English II
Lang 202

After this class, you will be able to

- Understand describing graphs and charts
- Elicit key information
- Extract basic information
- Compare and Contrast
- Provide recommendations
- Draw organized conclusions

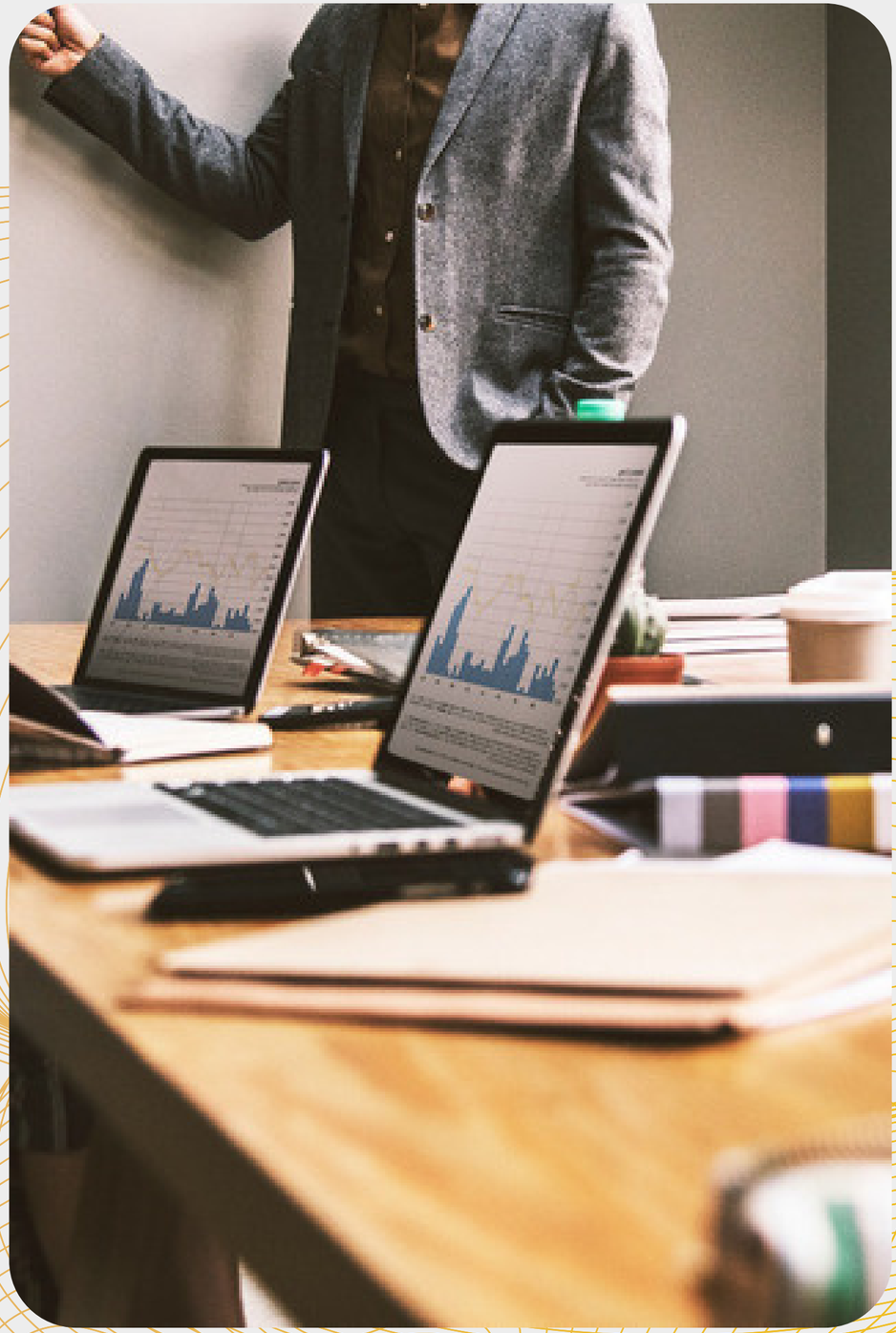
What are Graphs and Charts?

Graphs and charts are **visual representations** of data in the forms of lines, bars, pie charts, points etc.



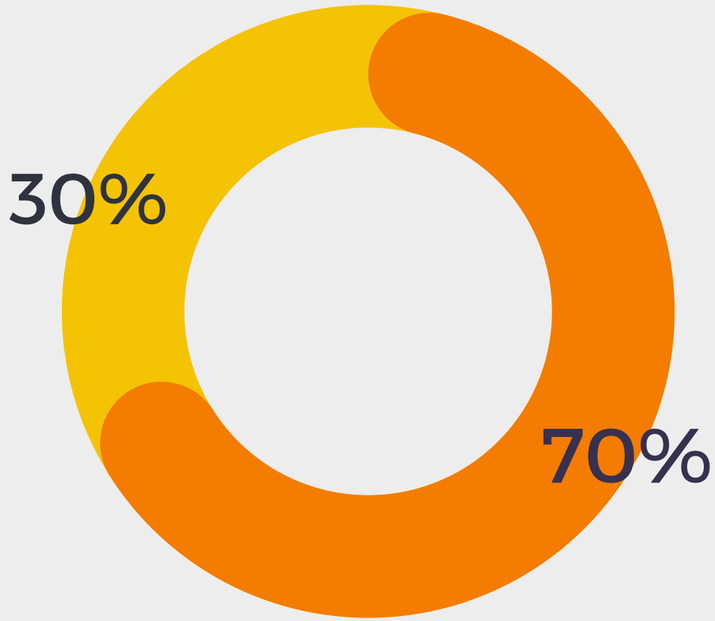
Types of Graphs and Charts

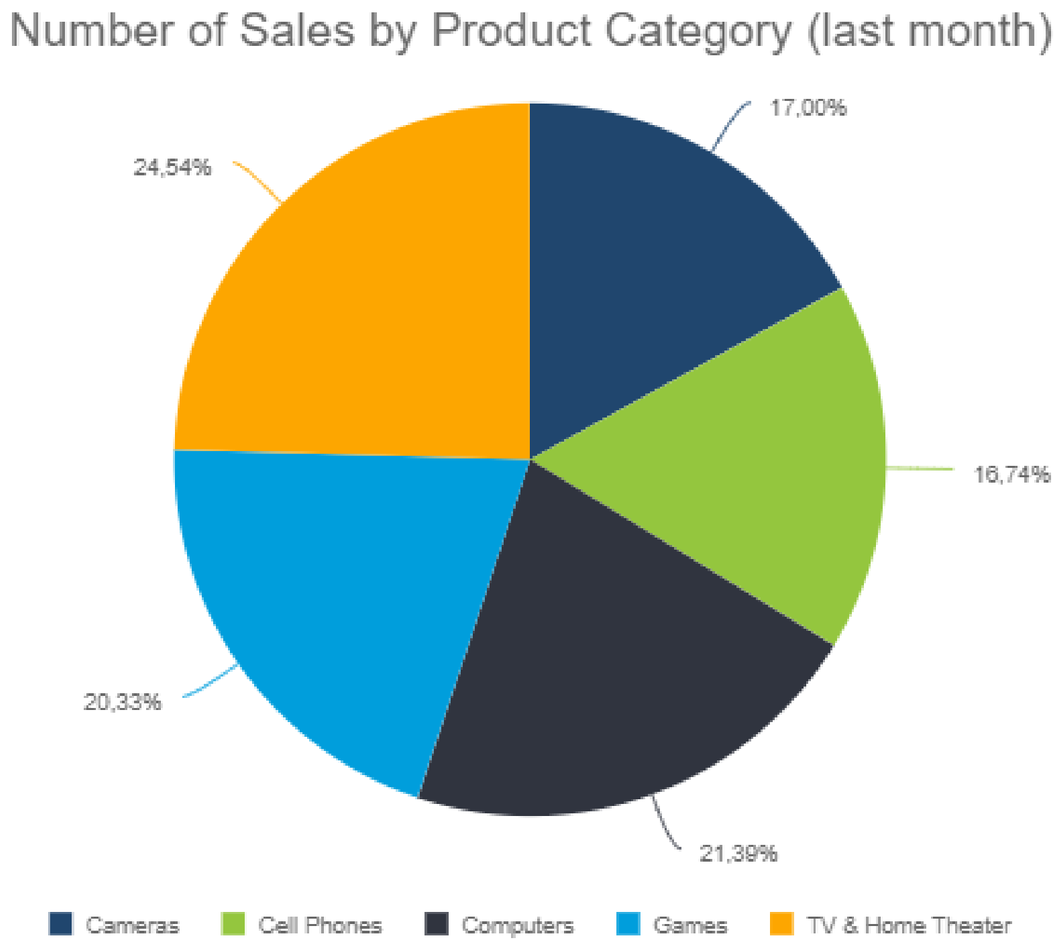
- Number Chart
- Line Chart
- Pie Chart
- Bar Graph etc.



Why should we use Graphs and Charts?

- It helps to **express** complex data in a **simpler way**.
- It may **add values** to your **project, meetings, presentations** etc.
- It will also improve the **clarity** and **effectiveness** of your message.

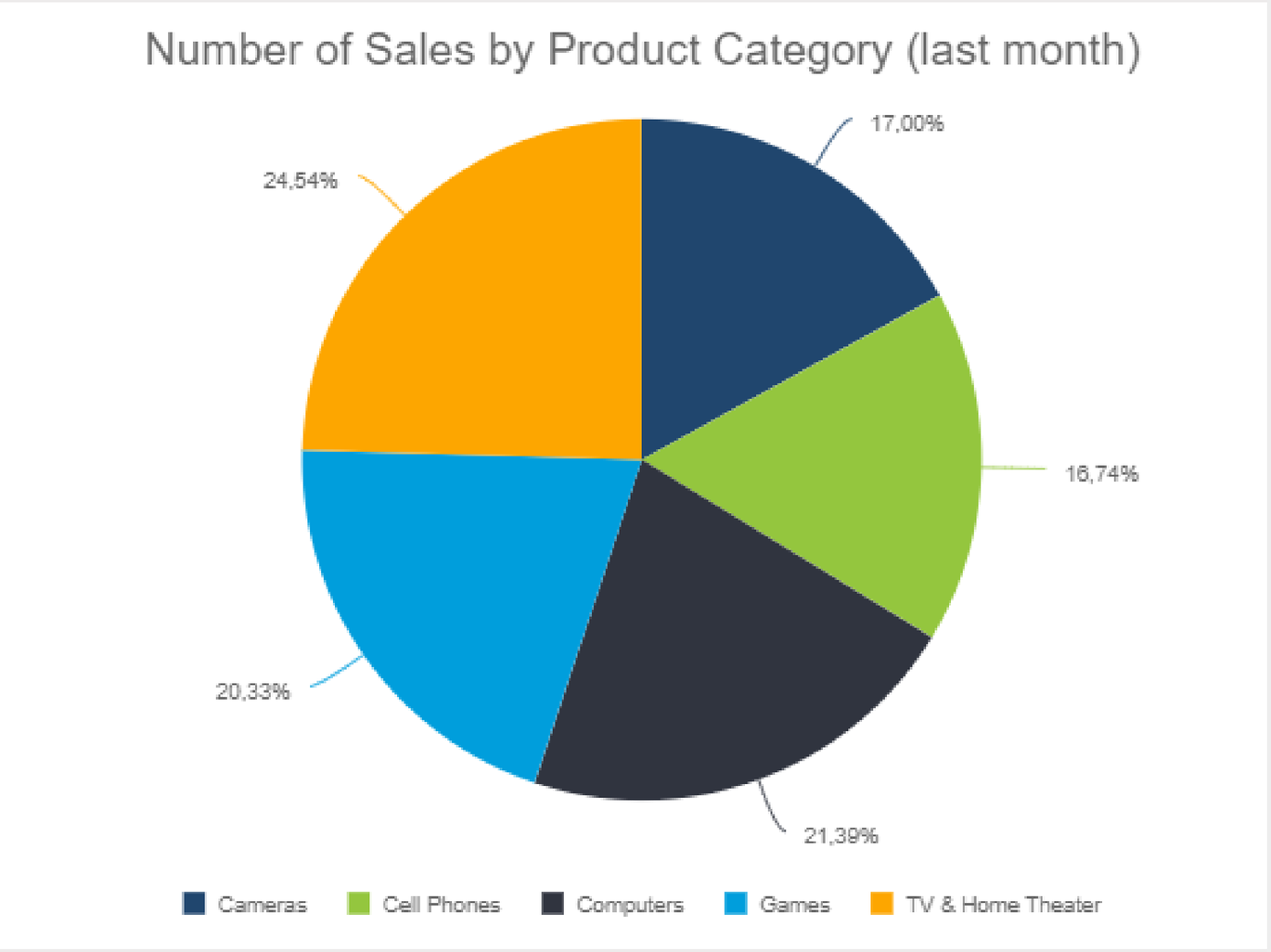




1. **Read the title**

The title indicates the types of information being displayed, e.g. Number of Sales last month.

How to interpret Graphs and Charts?

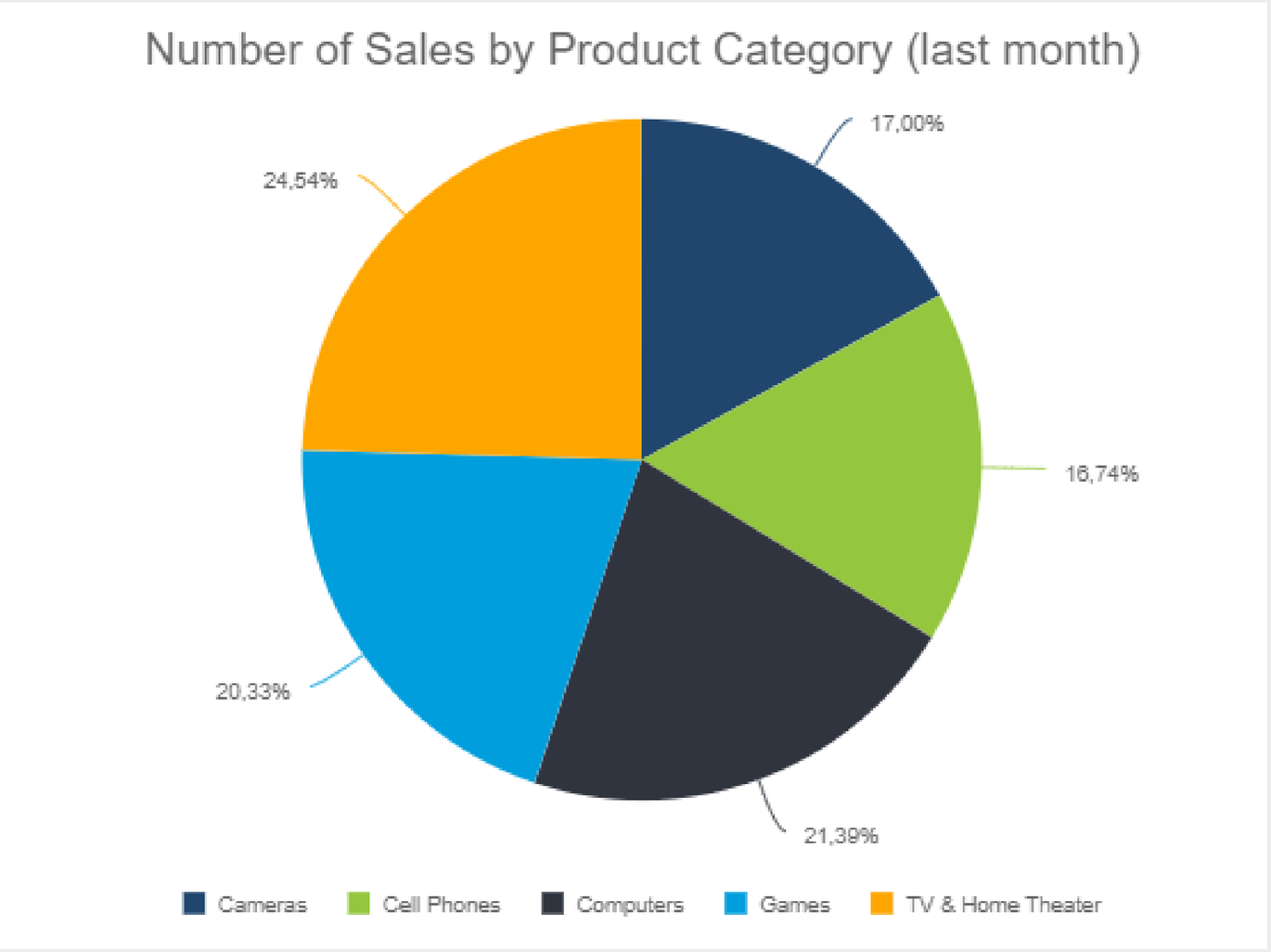


2. Observe the Picture

Normally the graphs and charts are placed right beside/ below the title, inside a box.

Different symbols/colors will show different points.

How to interpret Graphs and Charts?

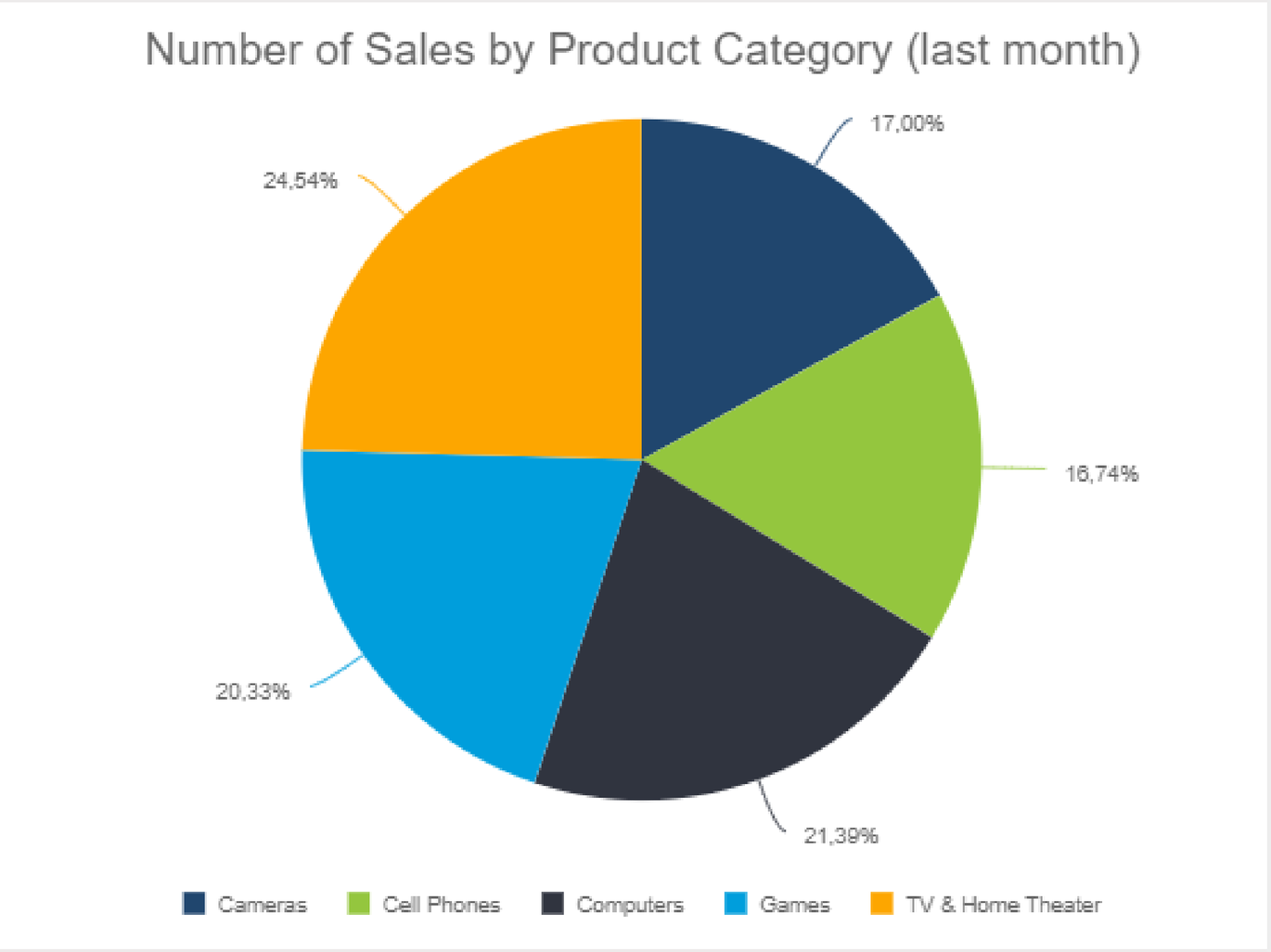


3. Read the labels

The labels will tell you what variables are there in the details.

e.g. In bar charts, X-axis may point the sales amount and Y-axis may point the number of products sold.

How to interpret Graphs and Charts?



4. Draw conclusions based on the data

It is easier to reach conclusions faster with graphs/charts than using written descriptions/passages/ reports.

How to interpret Graphs and Charts?



Tips for Writing

1. Start by saying **exactly what the chart/graph shows**, also mention the time period.
2. **State changes precisely**. Use data and numbers from chart as proves.
3. **Compare** the information with similarities/differences between the groups.
4. **Conclude** by mentioning the **main changes**/attributes .

Steps for writing

Introduction

- Start with, "This graph shows/represents/depicts..."
- Identify the general points/patterns

Pattern 1

- Describe the first pattern
- Better not to start a sentence with numbers; if needed, write numbers in words



Steps for writing

Pattern 1 (cotd.)

- Provide evidence from the graph to support your point/opinion.

Additional Pattern

- Repeat another pattern if there are more information to add.



Steps for writing

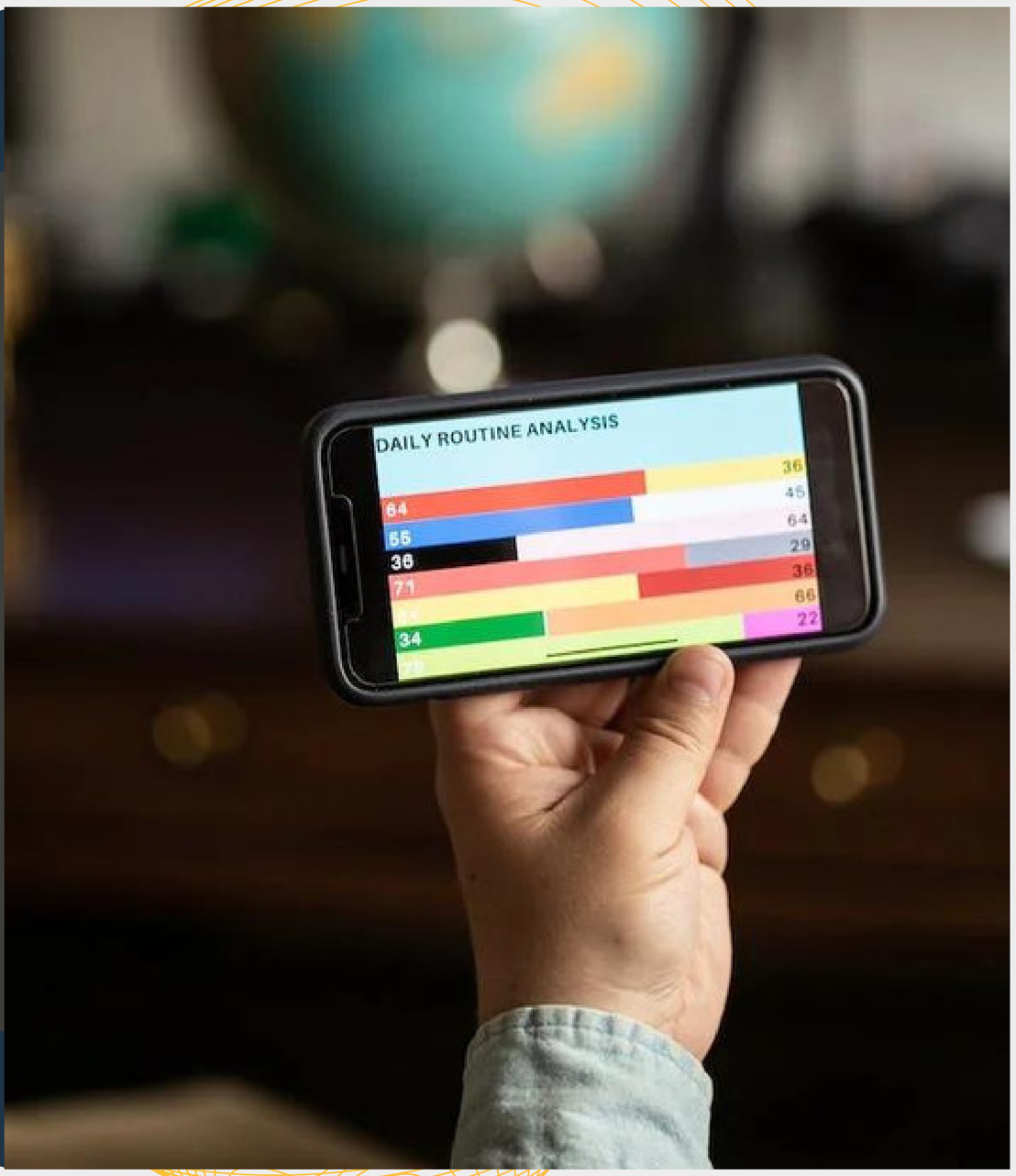
Differences

- State the differences with evidences from graph.

Conclusion/Recommendation

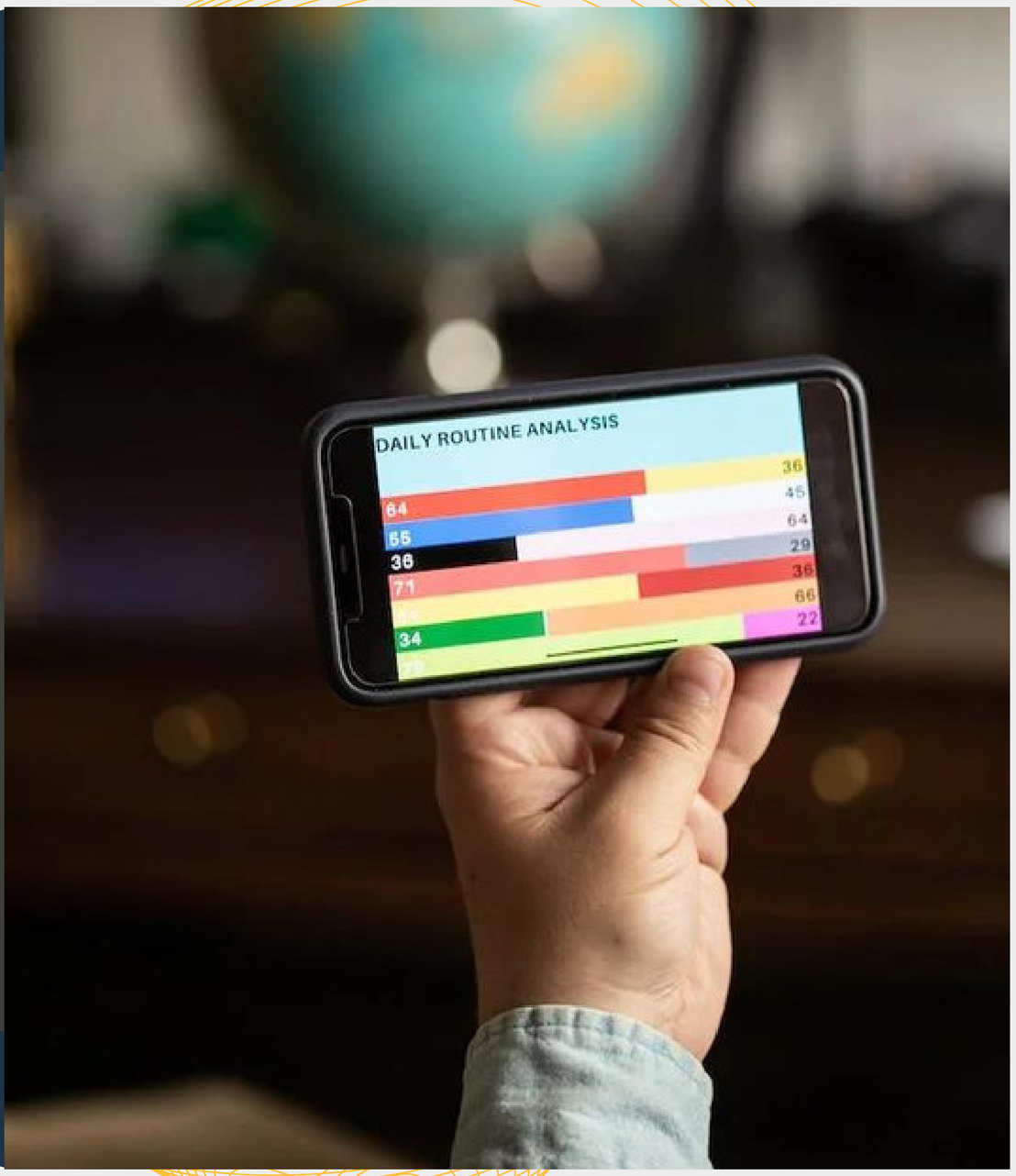
- Repeat and rephrase the main points
- Use comparative terms like: most, least, majority etc.





Some Starters for Graphs and Charts

- This graph shows...
- This chart represents/depicts...
- This chart breaks down...
- A similarity between... and ....is...
- The diagram outlines...
- This table lists

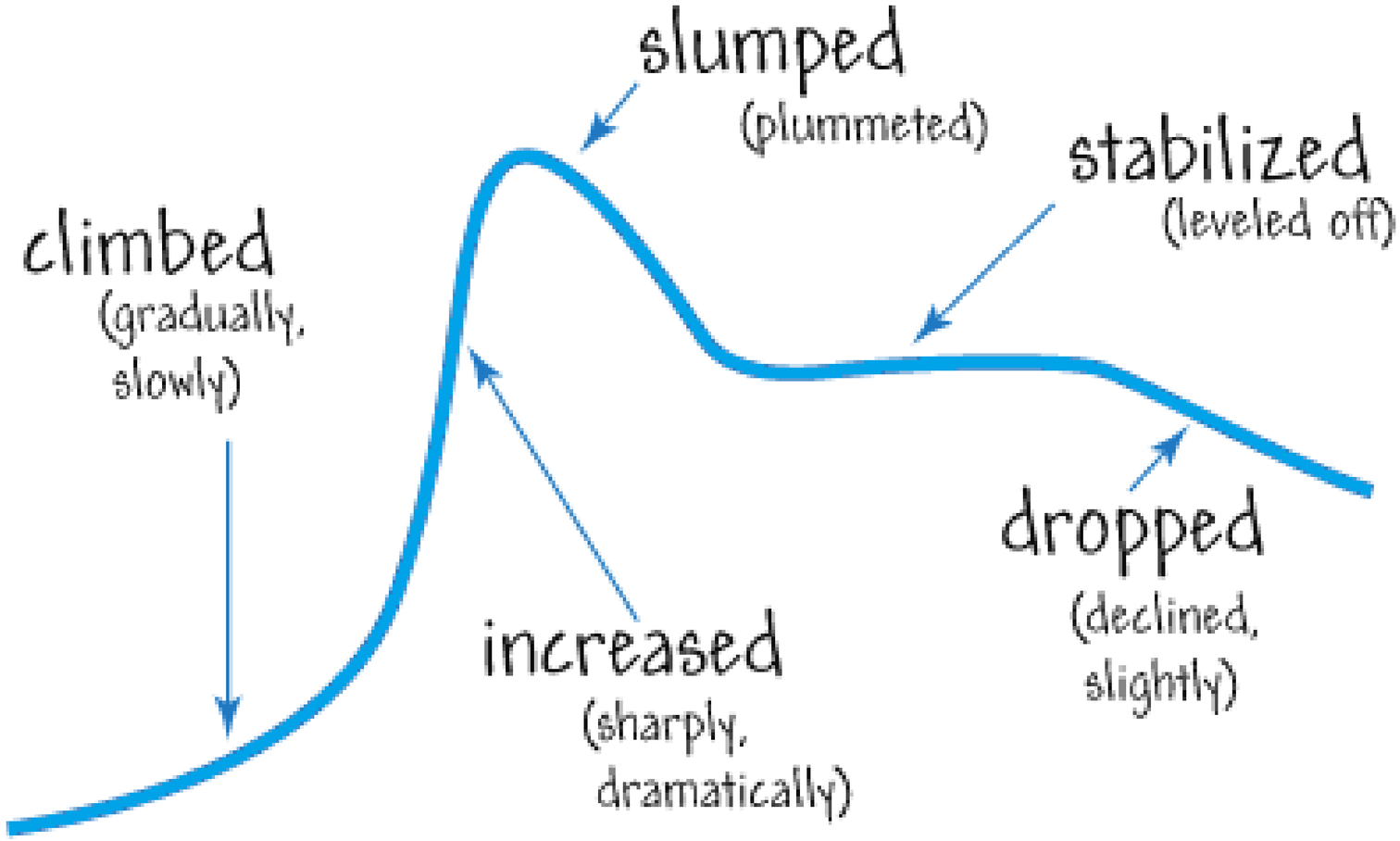


Describing Diagrams/Other Visuals

- The vertical/Y axis shows...
- The horizontal/X axis shows...
- This chart breaks down...
- The shaded areas describes...
- The curve remarks...
- This green bar....

- **Increase = rise / go up / uplift / rocketed / climb / upsurge / soar.**

- **climbed** (gradually, slowly)



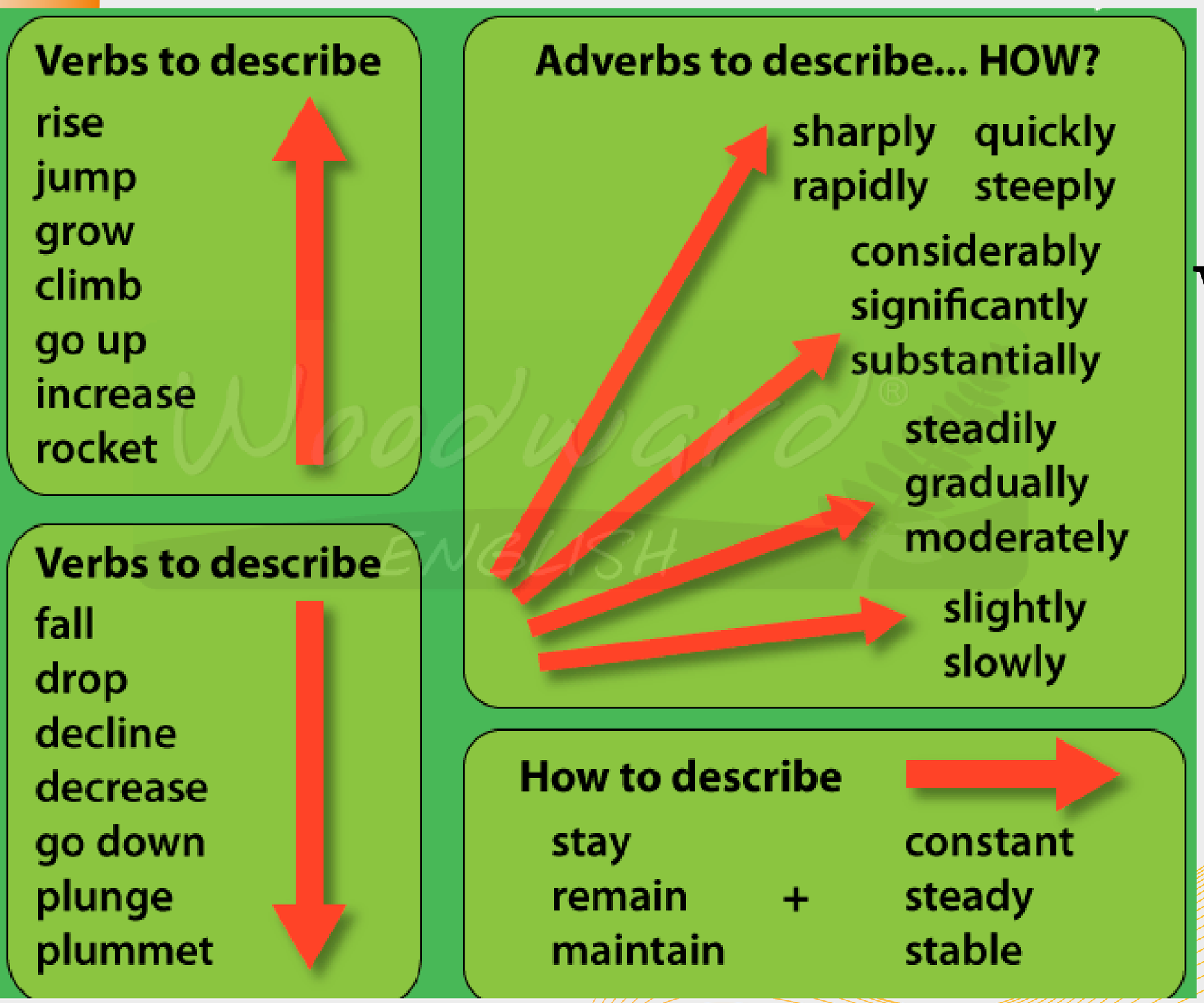
Presentations are communication tools that can be used as demonstrations, lectures, speeches, reports, and more.

Vocabularies to use in Graphs

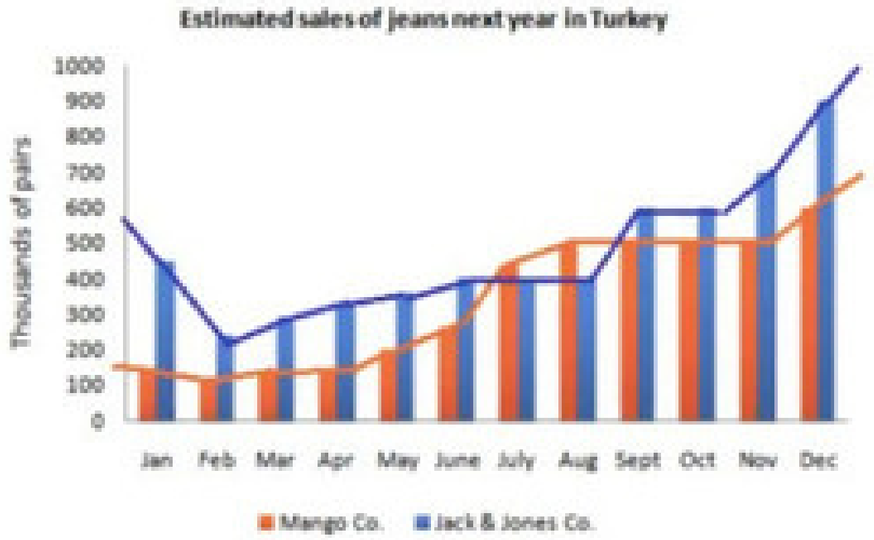
Vocabularies to Use in Graphs

Meaning	Verb	Noun
Go Down 	decrease fall drop decline plunge (big change) plummet (big change) / /	(a) decrease (a) fall (a) drop (a) decline (a) plunge / (a) downturn (a) downswing
Go Up 	increase rise grow double (2x) treble (3x) climb rocket (big change)	(an) increase (a) rise growth (a) doubling in + noun (a) trebling in + noun (a) climb /
No change	level off stablilize remain the same remain stable remain unchanged	a leveling off at stability / / /
Constant change 	fluctuate (be) unstable (be) volatile	fluctuation in + noun instability volatility
Position 	reach a high/peak of reach a low stood at start/begin at end/finish at	(a) high of (a) low of / / /

Vocabularies to Use in Graphs



The bar chart below shows the estimated sales of jeans for two companies next year in Turkey. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. Write at least 150 words.



First grouping **(Body paragraph 1)**	**Mango** Jan - Aug: increase Plat. —> Rise to Dec.
Second grouping **(Body paragraph 2)**	**Jack & Jones Co.** Outsell Mango (beg. end) Sales dip —> Feb. Sales stagnate —> August Increase —> Sept/Oct...

Introduction
The bar chart illustrates the predicted sales in Turkey of denim jeans for Mango and Jack & Jones companies. Transactions are measured in thousands of pairs.

Overview
Overall, the chart predicts an upward trend in sales of jeans. Furthermore, Turkish customers are predicted to purchase more jeans from Jack & Jones Co.

Body Paragraph 1
Regarding Mango, between January and August, Mango's sales will increase by 350,000 pairs. Following this, they will plateau until November and will finally show a positive rise in December, to end the year at approximately 600,000 pairs.

Body Paragraph 2
In terms of Jack & Jones, they will begin and end the year, outselling Mango by 300,000 pairs. However, sales will dip in February to about 250,000, before increasing to around 400,000 in June. Then, sales are expected to stagnate until August.

The chart below shows the changes in sales of four different types of books from 2002 to 2012.

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



The bar graph compares the sales of four book genres between 2002 to 2012. Overall, history books vend increased remarkably while the admiration for hobby related books declined over the period.

As is presented in the illustration, history books had the highest demand in the market as it made more than 4000 trades in 2002. In this year the sale of hobby related books was the lowest, less than 1000, while entertainment and art books each recorded around 2000 sales volume. After 4 years, history books trade doubled while art and entertainment categories each made approximately 3000 sales. Hobby books' demand slightly increased in 2002 but dropped in 2004. In all the following years, the sales of hobby books remained constant and had always been the lowest around 200 sales. On the contrary, history books' sale reached to over 10,000 in 2008, the peak for the sale of any genre of books, and finally stood at around 9.5 thousand in 2012. Moreover, demand for entertainment and art books were almost the same in 2006 and 2008, just over 3000, but on the subsequent years, art books sales outranked the entertainment books sales.



Any Questions?