

Describing visual organizers: Figures, diagrams, charts, graphs + Review of parts of speech

Visual Organizers: Diagrams, charts and graphs

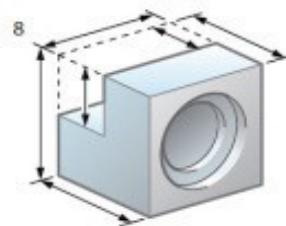
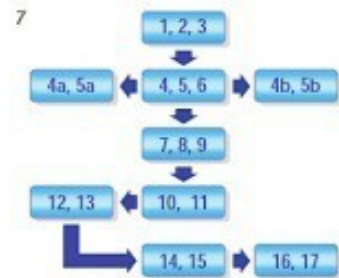
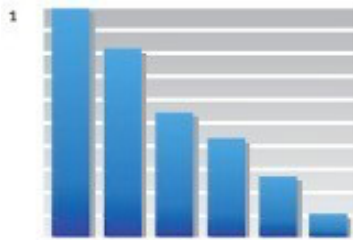
When we give a presentation or write a report/ academic paper in English we very often present some information in the form of a diagram, graph or chart. This requires the use of specific language to describe results and trends depicted by such visual organizers.

A: Types of visuals

Task 1

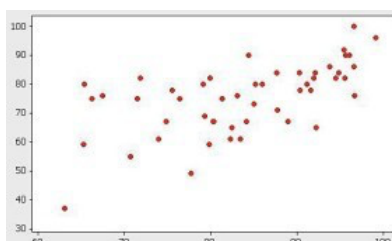
What are these visuals called in English?

- ____ bar chart
- ____ flow chart
- ____ organization(al) chart
- ____ (organigram or organogram)
- ____ pie chart
- ____ (line) graph
- ____ map
- ____ scatter diagram
- ____ table
- ____ technical drawing



3

	A	B	C	D
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				



What do you call the individual parts of a pie chart? Explain what a column and what a row is.

Task 2

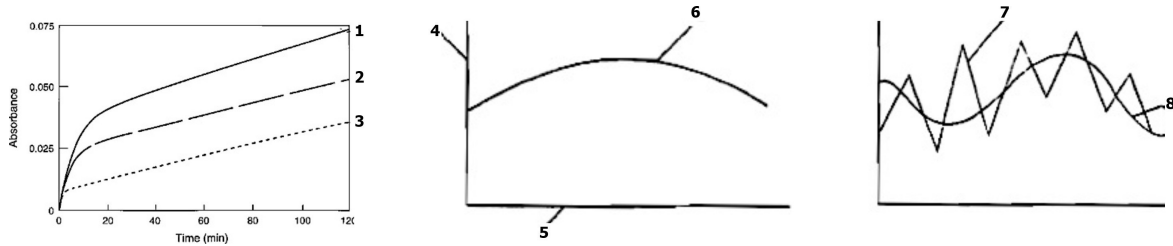
Which type of diagram would you use to show the following information?

- Trends, e.g. the increase in the price of oil over the last year
- Location, e.g. where major industrial cities are situated
- Raw data, e.g. methods of travelling to work with the number of people using each one
- Proportion, e.g. percentages for different types of vehicle journey
- Comparison, e.g. the number of cars per adult in different countries

Task 3

Label the lines using the words listed below.

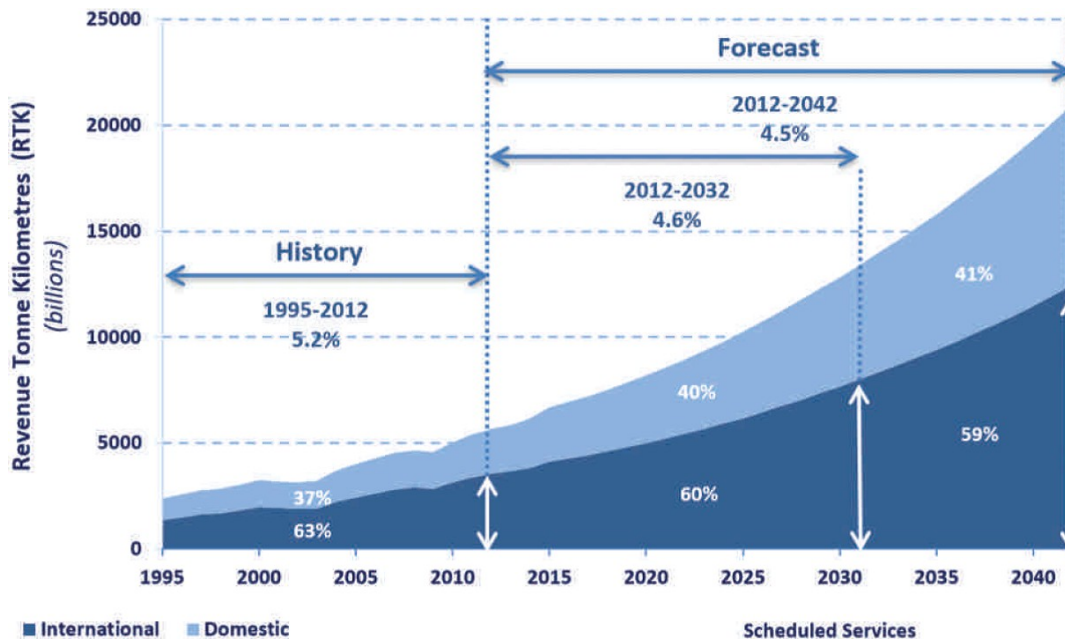
- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| ___ broken line | ___ curve | ___ dotted line |
| ___ fluctuating line | ___ horizontal axis | ___ solid line |
| ___ undulating line | ___ vertical axis | |



B: Recognizing features of a description

Task 4

Study the figure below and describe what it shows in your own words.



<https://www.icao.int/Meetings/FutureOfAviation/Pages/default.aspx>

Task 5

Identify the verb / verb phrases in the text above that are used to

- refer to the diagram
- describe the content
- make a prediction

C: Introducing visuals

Before we explain any results or trends represented by graphs we need to introduce the diagram to the audience. The following expressions can be used:

Let's have a look at I'd like you to look at Let me show you	this diagram. this chart. this graph.	
Here you can see	a model of....	
If you look at this diagram,	you can/will see...	
The table / pie chart / bar chart / line graph	shows represents gives presents compares	information on... data on... figures on... statistics on...

You will also need to name the parts and symbols of a diagram:

The vertical / horizontal axis	shows...	
The solid / broken / dotted line	represents...	
The curve	indicates...	
The shaded / unshaded	area	shows...
The dotted	section / segment	represents...
The red / green	column / bar	

If you want to **stress a point** or direct attention to the main features of the diagram, you can use the following expressions:

- You will note that...
- As you/we can see...
- As you will notice...
- What is important/interesting is that...
- You can see that...
- I'd like to draw your attention to...

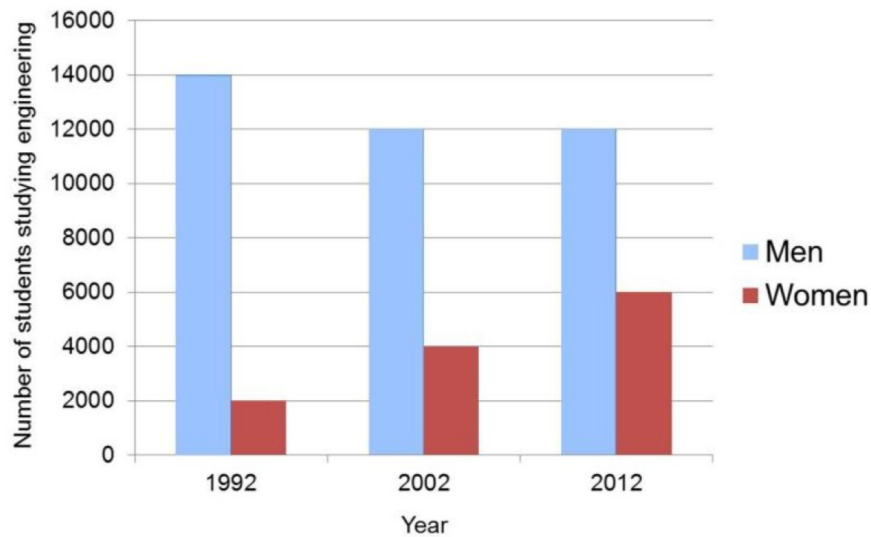
Task 6

Write a description of the bar chart below. Make sure your description includes:

- a general **opening statement** including a reference to the visual
- a **description** or explanation of the content
- a **concluding statement** with evaluation

The bar chart below shows the number of men and women studying engineering at Australian universities.

Summarise the information in the chart by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.



Source: <https://bsutrisno.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/academic-writing-giving-opinion-about-a-graph.pdf>
