

Listen to complete tables, charts and graphs

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Listening to understand and complete tables, charts and graphs is an important skill in academic settings. A lot of time is spent listening to professors and students presenting ideas and using visual data (charts, tables, etc.) to support what they say. Understanding which visual data someone is referring to, what it represents and which data is important is essential to comprehending the speaker's ideas.

Practice

01 Listen to the audio and complete the table.

Figure 1: _____

	_____	2018
Power	-78	_____
Transport	_____	18
_____	13	55
Buildings	7	_____

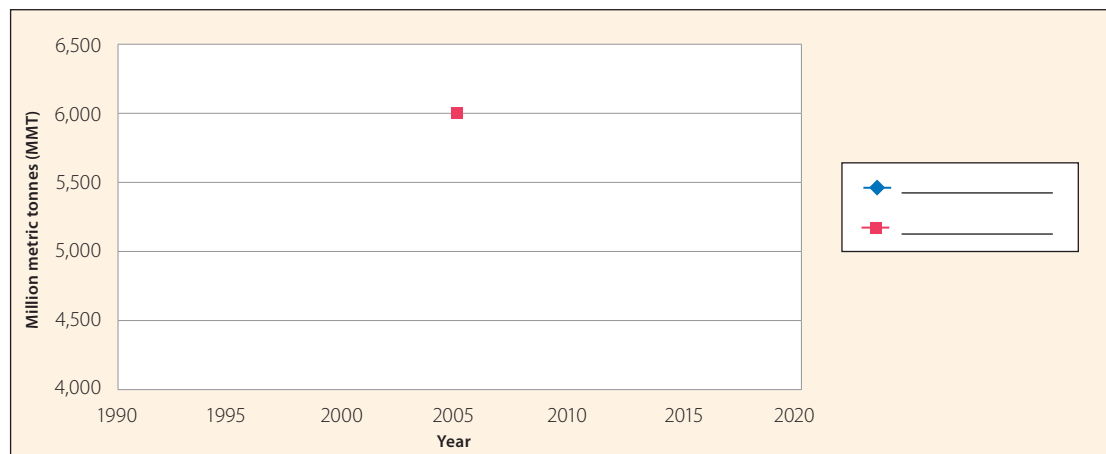
Source: _____

01 In pairs, complete the phrases used and discuss the questions. Listen again and check.

- The table _____ the average annual change ...
 - The figures _____ the Rhodium Climate Service ...
 - You can see the four main sectors _____ ...
 - There was a _____ fall in CO₂ emissions in 2017 ...
 - ... there was a significant _____ of 34 MMT in 2018.
 - Transport has shown a year-on-year _____ rise ...
 - ... then surged _____ in 2018 by a further 55 MMT.
 - So, what does all this _____?
- Which phrase(s) refer to the title of the table?
 - Which phrase(s) indicate the source of the data?
 - Which phrase(s) relate to how the data is categorized?
 - Which phrase(s) refer to changes in values of data?
 - Which phrase(s) highlight the importance of the figures?

3 **02** Listen to the next part of the audio. Complete the chart and the phrases below.

Figure 2: _____



- a Let's take a look at _____ 2 ...
- b ... which _____ the total carbon dioxide emissions versus agreement targets from 1990 to 2020.
- c This _____ gradually by 500 MMT ...
- d The level _____ steady for the next five years ...
- e ... with small _____ of 500 MMT by 2010 ...
- f Why is this _____?

TIP

In an academic setting, you often have to listen to and understand descriptions of visual data in lectures, seminars and tutorials. Making notes of the significant parts of the data by annotating your charts and tables will help you understand them better at a later date.

4 **In pairs, add more phrases to the table.**


Function	Phrases
Refer to a chart	<i>The table shows ...</i>
Give title/source	<i>The figures come from ...</i>
Large fall (adjective + noun)	<i>dramatic fall</i>
Large rise (adjective + noun)	<i>significant increase</i>
Small fall (adjective + noun)	<i>small decrease</i>
Small rise (adjective + noun)	<i>gradual rise</i>
Discuss significance	<i>What does this mean?</i>

5 **In pairs, describe the table and chart from the presentation using the phrases.**

- 6**  Draw a chart or table of made-up figures about a subject you are familiar with. Present your visual data to your group and answer their questions.



Reflect

- 7**  This is the transcript of the presentation you listened to. In pairs, look at the highlighted phrases. What functions do you think they serve? What other phrases could the speaker have used?

Transcript

... some nations have taken a step back recently in terms of CO₂ emissions. Take, for example, country X, which is shown in Figure 1 on your handout. The table shows the average annual change in carbon dioxide emissions by sector. The figures come from the Rhodium Climate Service, by the way. You can see the four main sectors represented and their annual changes in emissions in millions of metric tonnes, that's MMT, in 2017 and 2018. Let's look at the first sector, power, to begin. There was a dramatic fall in CO₂ emissions in 2017 – 78 million metric tonnes less than 2016. That's huge. But worryingly, there was a significant increase of 34 MMT in 2018. This is due to country X recommitting to coal-based power production, a move away from renewables and nuclear. Transport has shown a year-on-year gradual rise in MMT numbers, and 2017's 16 MMT jump and then 2018's rise of 18 MMT were no surprise, given increased air travel and use of road haulage. However, these next figures are particularly concerning. Industry increased its CO₂ output in 2017 by 13 MMT, but then surged dramatically in 2018 by a further 55 MMT. This is due to a relaxation of government controls and proposed new legislation in the pipeline. Similarly, buildings emissions went up in 2017 by 7 MMT and then surged substantially in 2018 by 54 MMT. So, what does all this mean? CO₂ emissions are still increasing and some countries seem unworried by this, so we have to double our efforts in meeting emissions targets.

... OK, let's come back to country X to further demonstrate my point. Let's take a look at Figure 2, which represents the total carbon dioxide emissions versus agreement targets from 1990 to 2020. You can see that in 1990, emissions, represented by the blue line, totalled 5,000 million metric tonnes. This rose gradually by 500 MMT over the next five years and a further 500 MMT by 2000. The level remained steady for the next five years, until, in 2005, agreement figures were introduced as targets, so that countries might aim to reduce their emissions steadily. Country X did well, with small decreases of 500 MMT by 2010 and again a further 500 MMT by 2015, both exactly in line with the agreement targets, which you can see in red. There should be a similar drop in CO₂ output by 2020 according to the targets. However, this won't be the case. Their emissions are set to rise to about 5,500 MMT by 2020, according to our data projections. Why is this important? Well, it's a clear reversal in emissions trends and falling behind international targets. The consequences could be severe ...