



Describing and drawing a graph

Read a curve, describe it with the right words, and draw it.



1 Types of graph

Bar chart



to compare categories

Line graph



to follow a change

3 Describing a graph

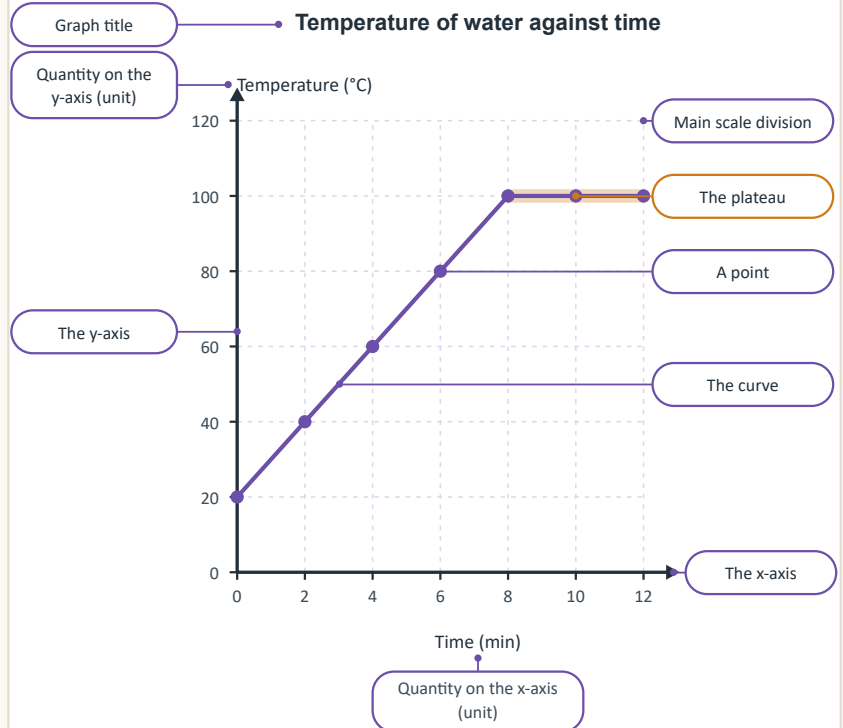
"The curve goes up" is not wrong, but it is not enough.

Not enough	Expected
The curve goes up	The quantity increases
The curve goes down	The quantity decreases
The curve does not move	The quantity stays constant

Writing example

The temperature increases from 20 °C to 100 °C between 0 and 8 min, then stays constant at 100 °C from 8 min to 12 min: this is a plateau.

2 Vocabulary of a line graph



The starting table

Time (min)	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
Temperature (°C)	20	40	60	80	100	100	100

4 Drawing a graph in 4 steps

1 Choose the axes



On a graph of "Y against X", X goes on the x-axis and Y on the y-axis.



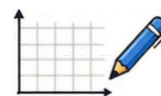
2 Choose the scale



Find the smallest and the largest value, then choose a regular scale.



3 Prepare the graph



Draw the axes and mark the scale. Write the quantities, the units and the title.



4 Plot and join



Plot each point with a fine cross. Join them with a ruler if they line up, freehand if they form a curve.



Check before handing it in



Axes labelled



Units shown



Regular scale



Points plotted



Title written

