5B Facts and figures



As a presenter, nothing commands like credibility. This is especially true when it comes to presenting data. Audiences that are analytical, scientific or engineer-minded tend to look at the data with a sceptical eye – it's what they're trained to do, after all. If your data has been boiled down or clarified too much, they may feel it has been manipulated, has become 'marketing data' or is no longer substantial. To prevent these assumptions, avoid decorating your data; ornamentation can detract from credibility.

Nancy Duarte, Duarte Design

- 1 Nancy Duarte is one of the world's leading presentation designers. To what extent do you agree with her that there's such a thing as 'technical data' and 'marketing data'?
- 2 What kind of audiences do you typically have to present to?
- Being able to accurately describe trends is an important part of presenting data. Brainstorm all the verbs you know to describe the following trends:



Which of the verbs you came up with can be converted into nouns?

When you want to give your audience an idea of the scale, speed and significance of the trends you're describing, you need to use modifiers. Add the modifiers in the box to the chart according to their function. Some of them may serve more than one function.

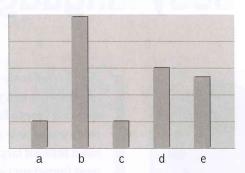
substantial disappointing massive rapid encouraging slight marked alarming modest huge moderate tremendous sudden significant fantastic sharp enormous disastrous gradual steady marginal considerable dramatic

Scale BIG OR SMALL CHANGE?	Significance GOOD OR BAD CHANGE?	Speed FAST OR SLOW CHANGE?
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5 With a partner, write descriptions of this simple bar chart using the expressions in the box.

Example: D is marginally higher than E.

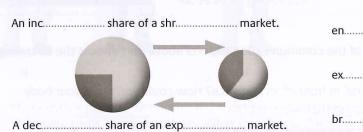
marginally higher than (just) as high as by far the highest almost as high as not quite as nowhere near as high as more or less the same considerably higher than equally high

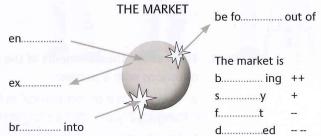


- 6 Put the following phrases in order from a large decrease to a huge increase:
 - a more than doubled b almost halved c nearly tripled d increased tenfold
 - e quadrupled f fell by a third g increased three and a half times

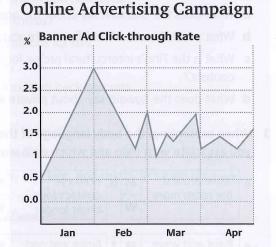


7 Complete the key words below for describing markets and market share.





8 ••• 1.22 Write the missing prepositions in the presentation extracts below. Then listen and check.



9 Turn to page 85 to practise presenting different kinds of numerical and graphic information. You can evaluate your performance using the feedback form on the website.