

READING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- skim a text quickly to understand the general idea
- scan a text for specific information to answer short-answer questions
- use skimming and scanning to locate the answer quickly
- understand and produce paraphrasing
- use the present continuous and present simple correctly.

LEAD-IN

01 ▶ A common topic in the exam is 'home'. Put these words under the correct heading in the table.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|---------|--------|---------------|
| apartment | beach | bungalow | castle | ceiling | cellar | remote island |
| city centre | countryside | dining room | floor | garage | stone | glamorous |
| leather | mountains | mansion | marble | modern | simple | skyscraper |
| spacious | staircase | traditional | wood | window | gym | |

| Location | Building type | Style | Rooms | Parts of a room | Materials |
|----------|---------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-----------|
| | apartment | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

02 ▶ In pairs, use the vocabulary from exercise 1 to help you describe your dream home.

My dream house would be on the beach near the sea. It would be a simple bungalow with wooden floors. It would have a large dining room ...

SKIMMING AND SCANNING

Skimming and scanning are important reading techniques which are very useful in IELTS. As time is limited in the exam, skimming and scanning help you to find the answers you need quickly.

You **skim** a text quickly to understand the **general idea**.

You **scan** a text quickly in order to find **specific information**.

03 ▶ For each activity, decide whether you would use skimming or scanning.

- 1 looking up a word in the dictionary *scanning*
- 2 browsing the internet for the latest news stories
- 3 choosing a book from a library or bookshop
- 4 finding a particular news story in a newspaper
- 5 finding the price of a product in a catalogue
- 6 looking through a magazine for an interesting article

TIP 03

Try to practise these or similar activities as much as possible. The more you practise, the better you will become at each technique.

04 ▶ The home in the photo cost about one billion dollars to build. What do you like or dislike about the design?

TIP 05

You are only reading for the **main ideas** at this stage, so remember to ignore unknown words.

05 ▶ Skim the text to understand the main ideas.

A Mukesh Ambani is one of the richest men in the world, and the first man to own a private residence costing more than one billion dollars to build. The home is on Altamout Road in Mumbai, one of the most expensive addresses in the world. Named after the mythical island Antilia, the property has 27 floors.

B The interior of the home is very glamorous and each floor is made from different materials to give an individual look. Marble floors, rare wood and fine rugs are just some of the design features used to create this extravagant home. The lotus flower and the sun are common symbols used throughout. Many of the rooms have floor-to-ceiling glass windows, offering spectacular views of Mumbai and the Arabian Sea.

C The skyscraper has a multi-storey garage with space for 168 cars. Alternatively, there are also three helipads on the roof of the building. The lobby has numerous reception areas and nine lifts. There are also several floors for dining, vast libraries and a health spa, including a gym, several swimming pools and yoga facilities. There is even an 'ice-room' which creates man-made snow, a Hindu prayer room and several floors of gardens.

D The Ambani residence is clearly designed to entertain guests. It has a theatre which seats 50, several guest bedrooms and a grand ballroom filled with chandeliers.

E The living quarters are on the top floors, because the family wanted as much sunlight as possible. The 400,000 ft² residence requires 600 staff, but all three Ambani children are required to clean their own rooms when they are at home.

F Several experts have criticised the architecture of this very expensive home, comparing it to an 'unstable pile of books'. Mrs Ambani, however, describes her home as 'an elevated house on top of a garden' and 'a modern home with an Indian heart'.

*helipad - a place where a single helicopter can take off and land



06 Answer these questions.

- When you were skim reading the text, which of these types of word did you focus on: prepositions, articles, names, verbs, adjectives, numbers?
- Discuss with a partner what you remember about the text.
- What overall title would you give the text?
- Put the information in the order in which it appears in the passage.

- a where the family live
- b opinions on the house
- c the materials used for the interior
- d the cost and address of the house
- e the facilities in the house
- f the owner of the house
- g information about the theatre and ballroom

07 Now scan the text for the information to answer these questions.

- Who owns the property?
- How many floors does it have?
- What are the floors made out of?
- What are the common symbols used throughout the house?
- How many cars does the garage have space for?
- How many people are required to work in the home?

PARAPHRASING

08 These statements paraphrase each of the paragraphs in the text. Match each statement, 1–6, with the correct paragraph, A–F.

- The house has many desirable facilities and outside spaces. Guests can either drive or fly to the home.
- The family live on the top floor because they want exposure to sunlight.
- Mrs Ambani and the architecture experts have different opinions about the house.
- Antilia is situated in Mumbai and owned by Mukesh Ambani.
- The appearance inside the house is very extravagant and expensive materials have been used. The house also has magnificent views of the city.
- The home is fully equipped to make visitors feel welcome.

09 The key to paraphrasing is understanding synonyms and words or phrases with a similar meaning. Match these words and expressions.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 desirable facilities | a guests |
| 2 outside spaces | b Mumbai |
| 3 inside | c expensive |
| 4 extravagant | d rare wood and fine rugs |
| 5 city | e health spa and libraries |
| 6 visitors | f gardens |
| 7 equipped to make visitors feel welcome | g interior |
| 8 expensive materials | h designed to entertain guests |

TIP 07

In many of the IELTS reading tasks, the answers appear in the same order as the text.



'Paraphrasing' is another important technique to understand and use in the exam. Paraphrasing is when you repeat something using different words, often in a simpler and shorter form that makes the original meaning clearer.

-
-
-
-
-
-

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS



Questions which require an answer of just a few words, like those in exercise 7, are a common feature of the exam. These are known as *short-answer* questions and they ask about factual details.

TIP 10-11

The answers for short-answer questions come in the same order as they appear in the text.

10 Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

- How many lifts does the home have?
- What can you find in the ice-room?
- What do the Ambani children have to do when at home?

TIP 10-11

Remember to check that your sentences are **grammatically correct** when you have chosen an answer.

COMPLETING SENTENCES

11 Complete the sentences. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

- The name Antilia comes from a _____.
- There are many facilities to accommodate a large number of _____.
- Opinions on the _____ of the house vary.

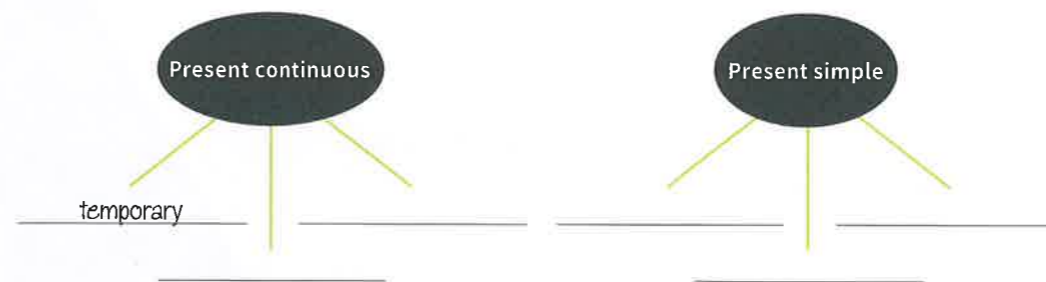


A similar type of task, which also requires an answer of only a few words, is the 'sentence completion task'. The sentences paraphrase words and ideas from the text.

GRAMMAR FOCUS: PRESENT SIMPLE/PRESENT CONTINUOUS

12 A 'mindmap' is a type of diagram with lines and circles for organising information so that it is easier to remember. Put these words and phrases with the appropriate tense in the mindmap.

temporary repeated actions general facts opinions
 an action which is not complete happening at the time of speaking



13 Using the rules in the mindmap, correct these sentences where necessary.

- Mukesh Ambani is living in Mumbai.
- Mrs Ambani is believing that her home has an Indian heart.
- The family live on the top floor because they want as much exposure to sunlight as possible.
- When the children are at home, they are cleaning their own rooms.
- Mrs Ambani entertains her guests in the ballroom at the moment.

14 Complete the sentences using the word in brackets and the correct form of the present continuous or the present simple.

- 1 Currently, my mum _____ (work) in the study.
- 2 I _____ (rent) in the city centre for now.
- 3 I _____ (think) that buying a new house now would be a very good idea.
- 4 What is that going to be? They _____ (build) a new accommodation block for students.
- 5 Every day his mum _____ (clean) the house.

EXAM SKILLS

15 Using the approach below, read the text and answer the questions which follow.

Locating the answer: one approach

- Read the questions first, so they are in your mind when you read the text.
- Make sure you have understood the question correctly – underlining key words could help.
- Skim read the text for the main ideas. This will help you to have a rough idea of where to locate your answers on a second read-through.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

- 1 What job did William Hearst do?
- 2 Who helped Hearst design the Castle?
- 3 How much did Hearst spend on art during his lifetime?
- 4 How many times was the Neptune pool rebuilt before Hearst was happy with it?
- 5 What were visitors to the Castle required to do every evening?
- 6 Who owns the mansion now?

Complete the sentences. Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

- 7 As a child, Hearst enjoyed his holidays to _____.
- 8 Hearst inherited the land from his _____.
- 9 Builders spent _____ creating the magnificent Neptune Pool.
- 10 Hearst took animals from _____ for his private zoo.
- 11 Although the zoo is now closed, _____ still walk about the hillside.
- 12 The family donated the property because of _____.

TIP 15

Time yourself: try to do this task as quickly as possible to practise locating information quickly for the exam.

HEARST CASTLE

[HOME](#)[ABOUT](#)[PHOTOS](#)[BOOKING](#)

A William Randolph Hearst was a successful American newspaper publisher who received over 1,000 km² of land when his mother died in 1919. Initially, he had planned to build just a small bungalow, so he hired Julia Morgan, the first female architect in California. Together, however, they designed a magnificent castle which cost 10 million dollars and took 28 years to build. The property, named *La Cuesta Encantada* (The Enchanted Mountain), has 56 bedrooms, 61 bathrooms, 19 sitting rooms and about 52,000 m² of garden.

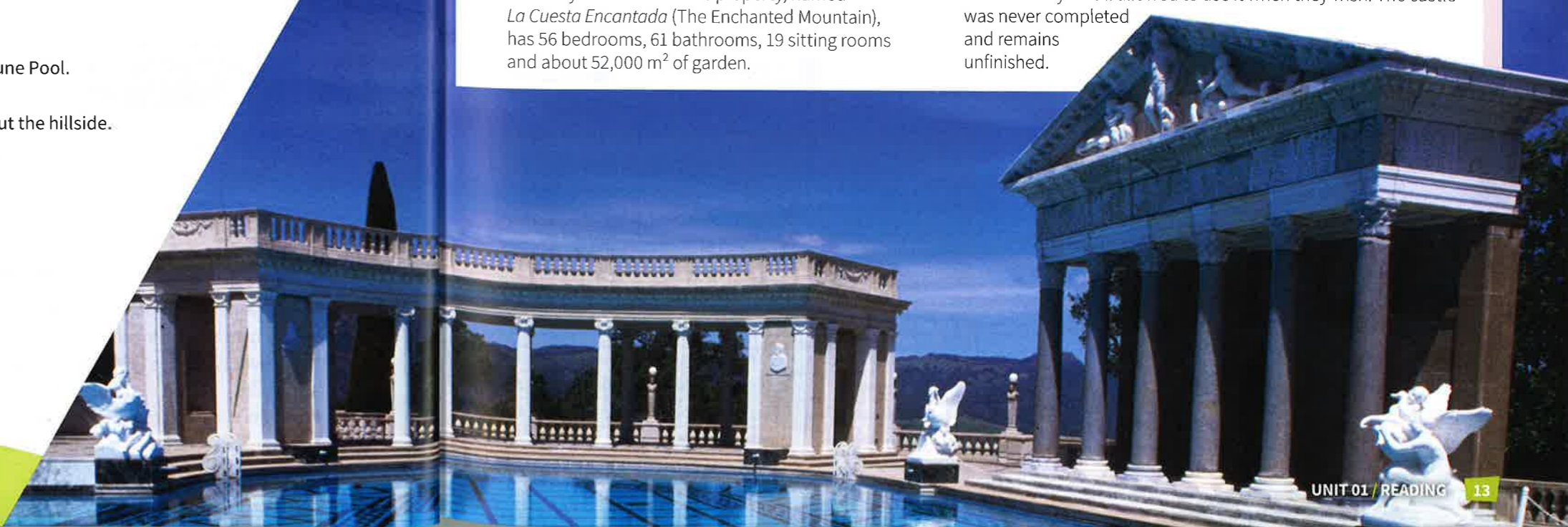
B Hearst loved travelling to Europe when he was a child and we can see this in the overall design of the house. He even included cathedral ceilings and Roman columns in his home. Hearst was also a keen art collector and, during his lifetime, spent \$3.5 million on his collection, which is displayed in the rooms at Hearst Castle. Today, his collection is worth much more, with one piece alone valued at \$10 million.

C One of the highlights of the estate is the Neptune Pool. It took 15 years to build and includes the front of an ancient Roman temple. It is on top of a hill and has wonderful views of the mountains, ocean and main house. The pool was rebuilt three times until he was satisfied.

D Although the inside of the house is very European, the outside is very Californian, with palm trees and water. Hearst loved trees and 70,000 were planted on the property during his lifetime. The castle was also home to the world's largest private zoo, holding animals from every continent. Although the zoo is now closed, zebras can still be seen on the hillside.

E As well as the *Casa Grande* (the main house), there are also three guest houses on the property: *Casa Del Monte*, *Casa Del Sol* and *Casa Del Mar*. Hearst entertained a great number of Hollywood stars and political leaders at the castle and many used his private airfield. Guests had to attend formal dinners every evening, but were free to do what they liked during the day. They were invited to stay as long as they wanted, but the longer they stayed, the further away they sat from Hearst at the dinner table.

F When Hearst died in 1951, his family learnt how expensive maintenance would be, and the mansion was donated to the State of California. Since then, it has been open for public tours and the site attracts millions of tourists every year. However, the Hearst family is still allowed to use it when they wish. The castle was never completed and remains unfinished.



WRITING

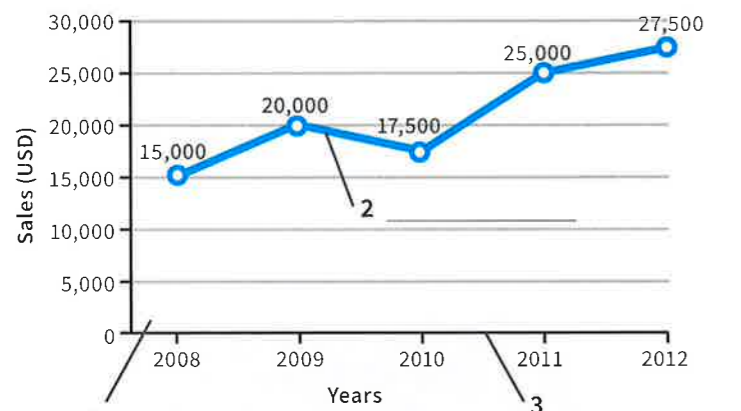
IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- select key features of different types of graph, chart and table in order to describe them accurately
- use suitable verbs, adjectives and adverbs to describe trends in different ways
- compare different graphs or information in the same graph and write a summary of the main features.

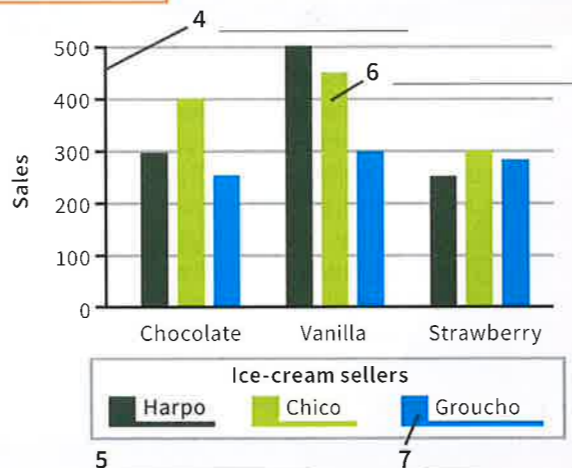
LEAD-IN

01 Look at these examples of the types of diagram you might encounter in the IELTS exam. Then label the diagrams with words from the box.

row line graph bar chart column horizontal axis key title
bar pie chart segment table vertical axis line



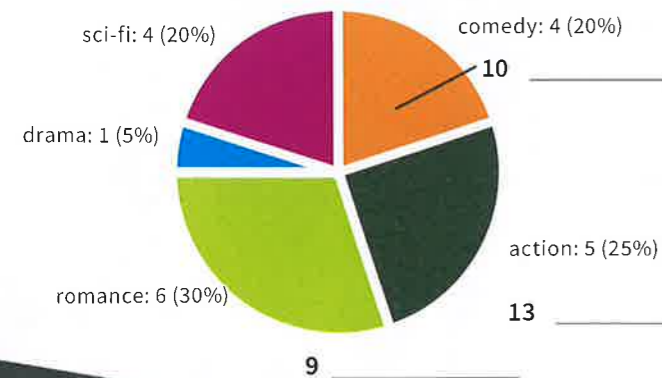
1 line graph



5

7

8 Favourite type of movie



9

In Writing Part 1, you could be given graphs/charts or tables to write about, so it is important to be very familiar with this kind of vocabulary.

| Keyword | Visits | Avg. Time on Site | % New Visits | Bounce Rate |
|---------------------|--------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 idealist | 33,103 | 00:10:05 | 19.84% | 12.73% |
| 2 idealist.org | 27,105 | 00:11:07 | 21.26% | 12.26% |
| 3 volunteer | 12,908 | 00:03:35 | 84.76% | 53.31% |
| 4 volunteer work | 6,721 | 00:02:42 | 90.55% | 59.75% |
| 5 volunteering.org | 5,363 | 00:03:20 | 86.41% | 61.78% |
| 6 non profit jobs | 5,203 | 00:09:04 | 47.01% | 18.68% |
| 7 www.idealists.org | 4,733 | 00:10:45 | 15.63% | 12.57% |
| 8 volunteering | 3,645 | 00:03:15 | 87.46% | 56.24% |
| 9 idealist.com | 3,341 | 00:10:39 | 31.94% | 14.43% |
| 10 nonprofit jobs | 2,865 | 00:08:35 | 37.38% | 15.78% |

11

12

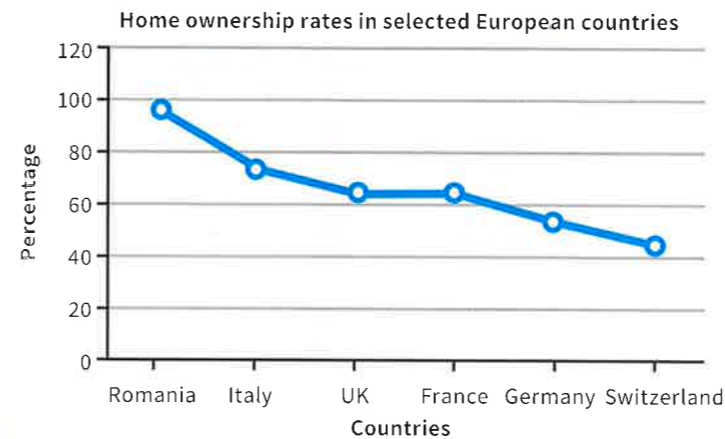
SELECTING KEY FEATURES

02 Study these graphs and make notes about their main features – use questions 1–12 to help you.

- 1 What does the title say the graph is about?
- 2 What does the vertical axis describe?
- 3 What does the horizontal axis describe?
- 4 What do the columns/bars represent?
- 5 Which is the tallest and shortest bar?
- 6 How do the bars compare to one another?

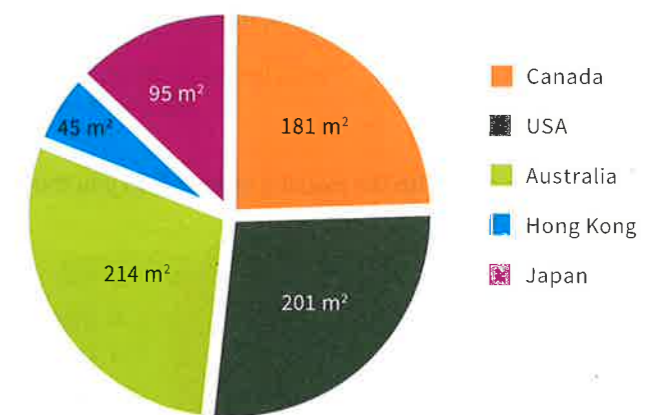


- 7 What does the title say the graph is about?
- 8 What does the vertical axis describe?
- 9 What does the horizontal axis describe?
- 10 What do the highest/lowest points of the line show?
- 11 What is the general trend of the line?
- 12 Are there any sharp decreases or increases?



- 13 What does the title say the graph is about?
- 14 What do the segments represent?
- 15 Which is the largest/smallest segment?
- 16 Are some segments similar in size?

Average house size in selected countries



Average house size in selected European countries

| Country | Size |
|----------------|--------|
| United Kingdom | 76 m² |
| France | 112 m² |
| Denmark | 137 m² |
| Germany | 109 m² |
| Italy | 61 m² |
| Spain | 97 m² |
| Greece | 126 m² |

- 17 What does the title say about the table?
- 18 How many columns are there? What do they represent?
- 19 Which country has the biggest average house size?
- 20 Which country has the smallest average house size?
- 21 Which countries have a similar average house size?

USING ACCURATE DATA

03 The sample answer describes the pie chart and table in exercise 2. Rewrite the sample answer, correcting any errors in data.

It is very important that the information you provide in your answer accurately reflects the information given in the text.

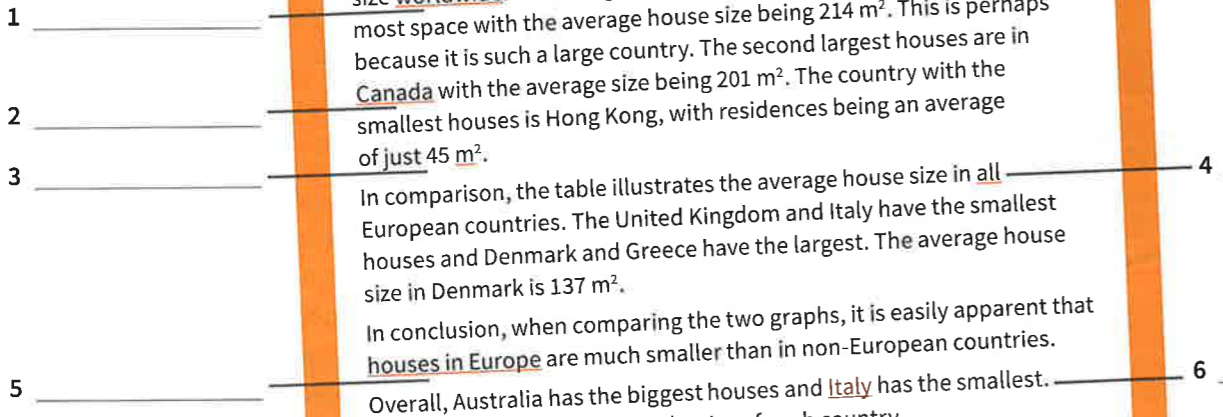
SAMPLE ANSWER

The pie chart and table provide information about the average house size worldwide. According to the pie chart, the Australians have the most space with the average house size being 214 m². This is perhaps because it is such a large country. The second largest houses are in Canada with the average size being 201 m². The country with the smallest houses is Hong Kong, with residences being an average of just 45 m².

In comparison, the table illustrates the average house size in all European countries. The United Kingdom and Italy have the smallest houses and Denmark and Greece have the largest. The average house size in Denmark is 137 m².

In conclusion, when comparing the two graphs, it is easily apparent that houses in Europe are much smaller than in non-European countries.

Overall, Australia has the biggest houses and Italy has the smallest. This is most probably due to the size of each country.



04 Did the writer make any other errors, not related to data? If so, what were they?

DESCRIBING TRENDS

05 Complete the words with the missing letters. Can you think of any more words for each category?

- ↑
- 1 Rise
 - 2 In _____
 - 3 Cl _____
 - 4 Go _____
 - 5 Ro _____
 - 6 So _____

- ↓
- 7 Fall
 - 8 Decr _____
 - 9 De _____
 - 10 Go d _____
 - 11 Plu _____
 - 12 Plun _____
 - 13 Dr _____

-
- 14 Maintain
 - 15 Remain
 - 16 Stay

06 Answer these questions.

- 1 Which of the verbs in the boxes are used to describe a sudden increase?
- 2 Which of the verbs in the boxes are used to describe a sudden decrease?

07 When using these verbs, it is important that you also consider the tense used. Look at this example.

- The number of young people buying property plummet last year. ✗
- The number of young people buying property *plummeted* last year. ✓

Complete the sentences using the verb in brackets in the correct tense. There may be more than one correct form of the verb.

- 1 Last year house prices _____ (rise) by 5%.
- 2 Monaco's property market _____ (remain) stable.
- 3 The line graph illustrates that since 2010 home ownership _____ (decrease).
- 4 House prices _____ (go up) next year.
- 5 In Ireland, property prices _____ (rocket) substantially this year.

USEFUL ADVERBS AND ADJECTIVES

Once you know the common verbs used to describe charts and graphs, it is important to add adverbs and adjectives to your sentences in order to demonstrate your range of vocabulary.

USEFUL ADJECTIVES

Adjectives can be used to demonstrate your range of vocabulary. Adjectives describe nouns and usually come **before** the noun.

Note: these verbs are also commonly used as nouns.

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| to rise / a rise | to fall / a fall | to decrease / a decrease |
| to increase / an increase | to drop / a drop | to dip / a dip |
| to decline / a decline | to peak / a peak | |

08 Complete the table with the adjectives from the box.

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-------------|------------|
| slight | modest | significant | dramatic |
| stable | steady* | substantial | unchanged* |

TIP 08 Make sure you know how to spell these adjectives correctly as it is common for students to make errors with these.

*These adjectives usually go after the noun.

| Big change | Small change | Gradual or no change |
|------------|--------------|----------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

09 Complete the sentences using adjectives from the box in exercise 8 and following the prompts in the brackets. More than one answer may be possible.

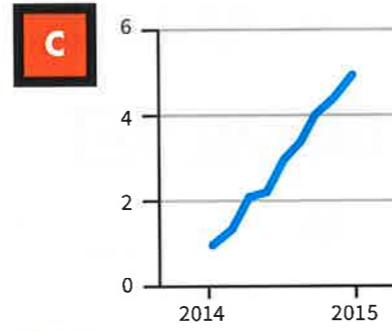
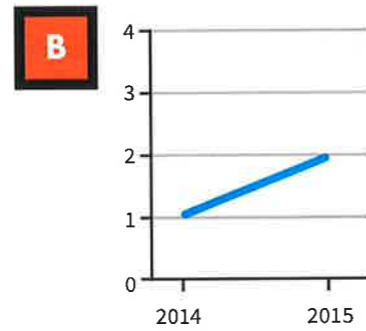
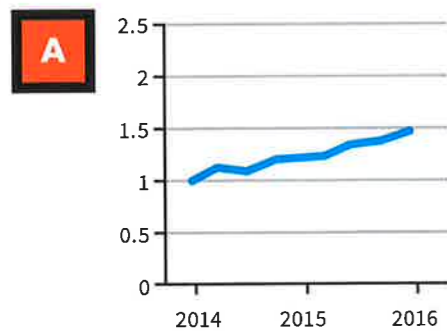
- Over the last year, Hong Kong has experienced a _____ (big) rise in house prices.
- There has been a _____ (gradual) increase in the number of young people buying houses.
- The rental market has seen a _____ (small) decrease over the last six months.
- The graph illustrates that the rental market is _____ (no change) at the moment.

USEFUL ADVERBS

Adverbs describe **how** something happens and usually follow a verb. For example:

- Last year house prices rose *significantly*.
- Last year house prices rose *slightly*.
- Last year house prices rose *steadily*.

10 Match sentences 1-3 with graphs A-C.



11 Complete the table using the adverbs from the box.

considerably consistently sharply gradually moderately
substantially dramatically slowly rapidly

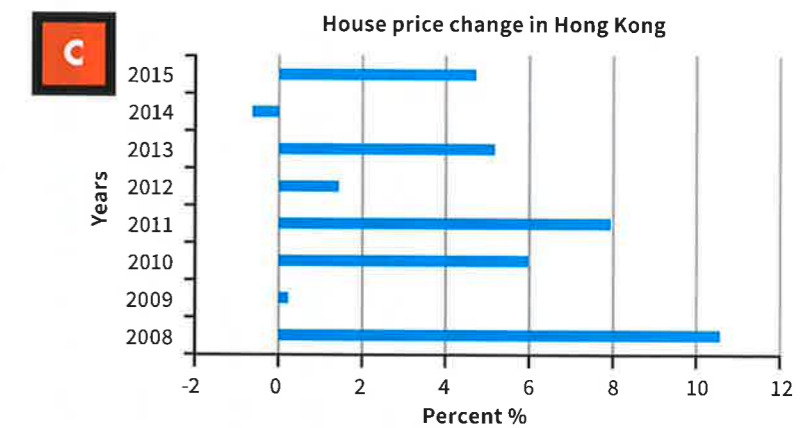
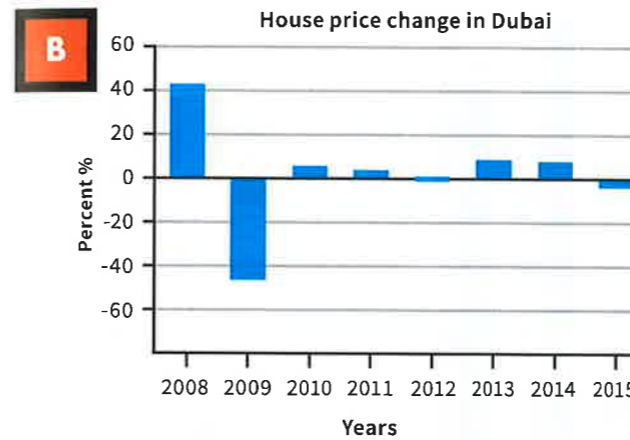
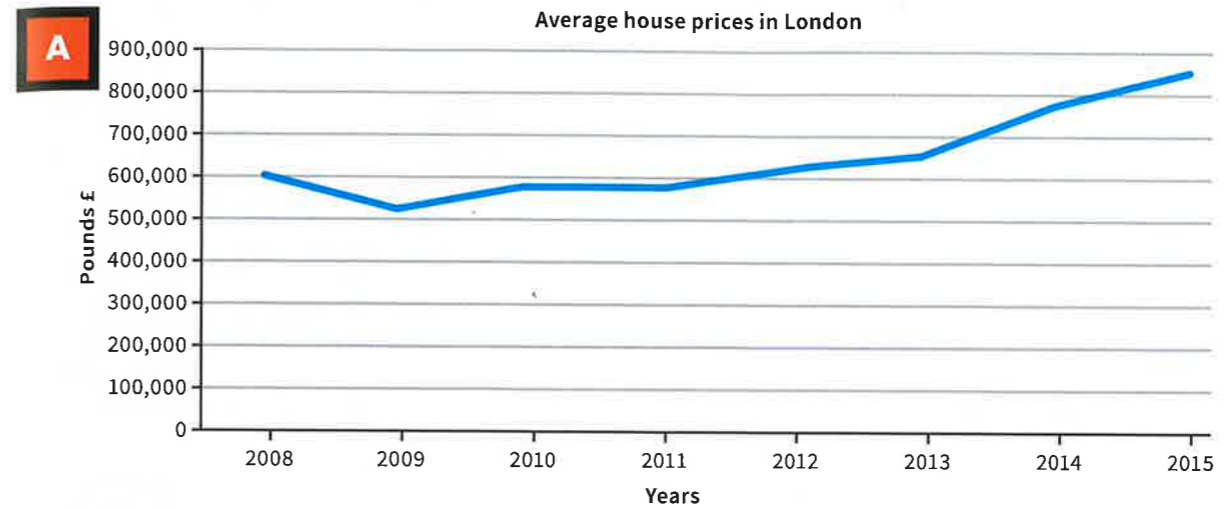
| Big change | Small change | Gradual change | Quick change |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| significantly | slightly | steadily | quickly |
| considerably | | | |
| | | | |

12 Complete the sentences using the adverbs from exercise 11 and following the prompts in the brackets. More than one answer may be possible.

- Home ownership has decreased _____ (big) over the last five years.
- Property prices have increased _____ (small) over the last six months.
- The property market is growing _____ (gradual) in this area.
- Interest rates have increased _____ (quick) recently.

PART 1: DESCRIBING TRENDS

13 Look at the trends illustrated by the graphs and charts. Discuss them with a partner using the language you have learnt in this lesson.



TIP 11 Make sure you know how to spell these adverbs correctly as it is common for students to make errors with them.

14 Match descriptions 1-3 with the graphs and charts A-C, then complete the first gap in each sentence with the correct country name.

- Since 2008, house prices in _____ have fluctuated heavily. In 2008 prices _____ by just over 40% and then _____ to -40%.
- Since 2008, house price increases in _____ have _____ under 11% each year. In 2008 prices reached a _____, with a _____ of just over 10%.
- Since 2010, house prices in _____ have _____. In 2009, prices _____, by almost £100,000, but _____ again rapidly in 2010 to approximately £600,000.

15 Complete the sentences in exercise 14 using the words and phrases in the box.

decreased substantially increased steadily remained peak rise
plummeted dramatically went up fluctuated went up

EXAM SKILLS

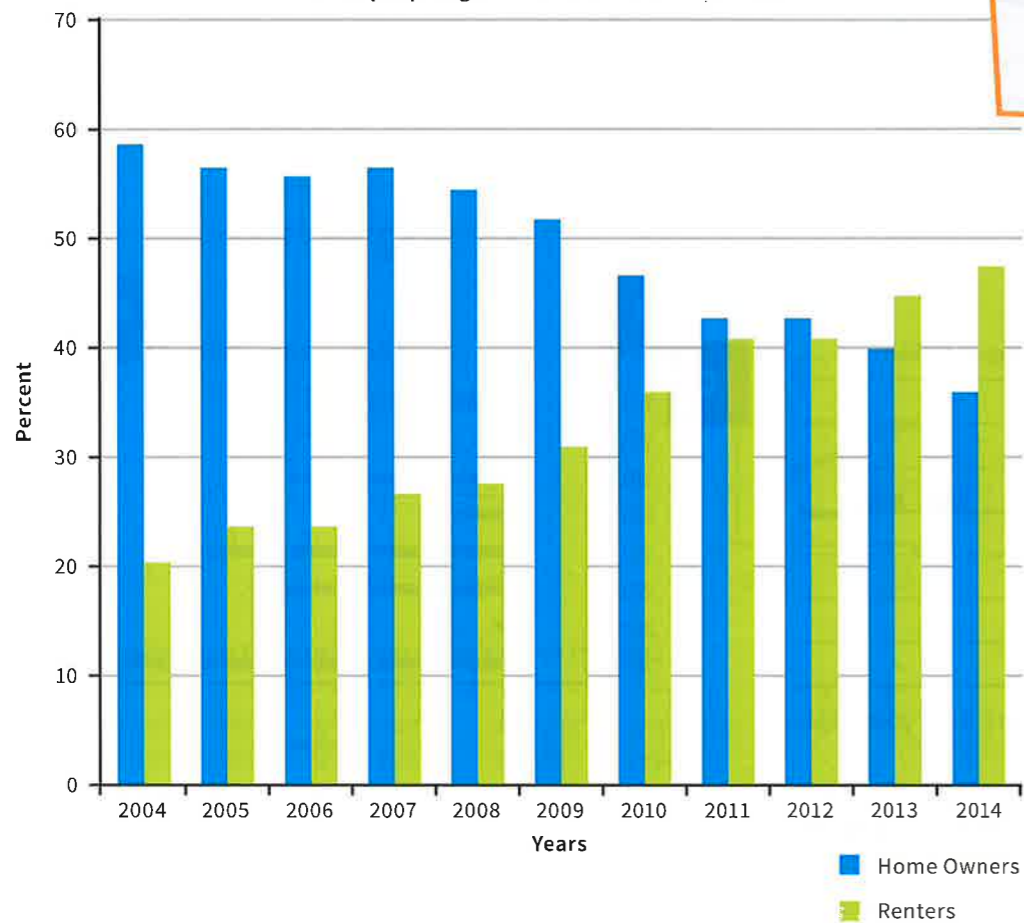
- 16** Use the information and language from this lesson to answer this Writing Part 1 task. You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below gives information about how people aged 25–34 are housed in the UK.

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

Write at least 150 words.

How people aged 25–34 are housed in the UK



TIP 16

Do not give your opinion, just the facts.

TIP 16

Remember to include an introduction and conclusion in your answer.

UNIT / 01: THE MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENT

LISTENING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

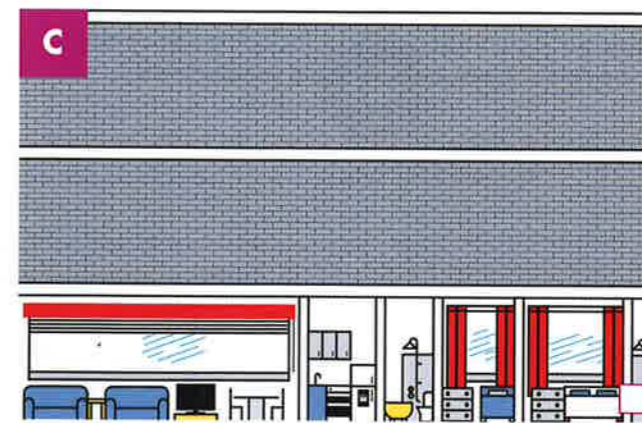
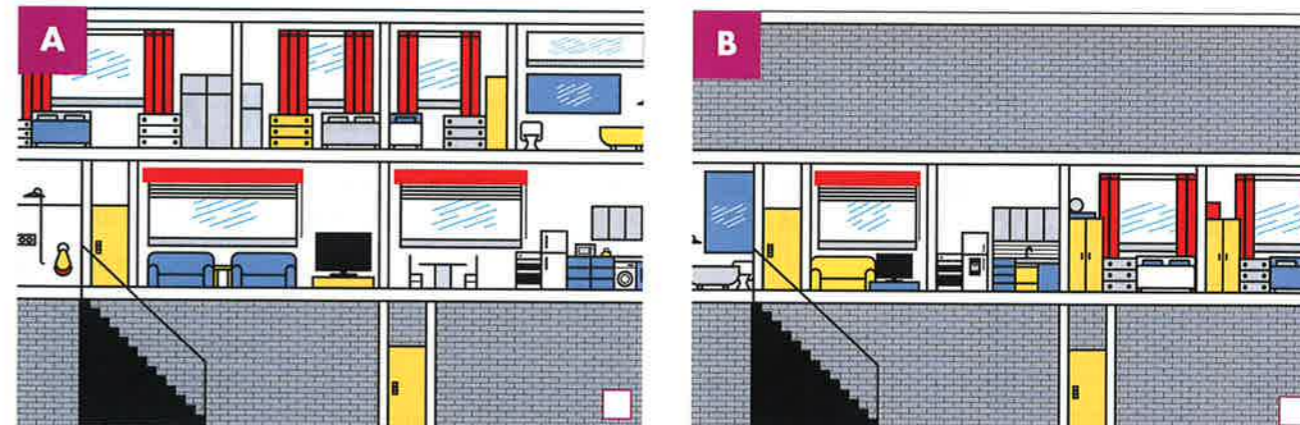
- predict the type of information required for short-answer questions
- listen for specific information (e.g. complex numbers, difficult spellings) and write it down correctly
- listen to understand context
- answer multiple-choice questions correctly by eliminating distractors.

FOR SALE

LEAD-IN

- 01** Listen to an estate agent describing the three properties in the pictures and write the correct number in each box.

02



- 02** Listen again and note down the words which helped you find the answers.

02

LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

03 Look at these notes and think about the kind of information that you will need for each gap, e.g. an address or telephone number. Then listen to the recording and complete the notes with **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER**.

TIP 03

In the Listening test, you will be given the context of the listening and you will have some time to look at the questions before you listen.

Address of property 1 _____
 Number of bedrooms 2 _____
 Number of lounges 3 _____
 Access to the 4 _____ through sun-room door
 Kitchen: fully-fitted, includes 5 _____
 and 6 _____
 Appointment time: 7 _____
 Estate agent's name: Peter 8 _____
 Estate agent's number: 9 _____



04 In the Listening test you may be asked to write down numbers, such as prices and phone numbers. Listen to these short conversations and write down the numbers in each.

- 1 £ _____
- 2 _____ km
- 3 _____
- 4 _____ m x _____ m
- 5 _____

05 In this exercise, you will hear some complex numbers, including a price and measurements. Listen to the estate agent and client and complete the information sheet.

| Property for sale | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Price | 1 £ _____ |
| Room sizes | Kitchen: 3.10 x 2.25 m |
| | Lounge 1: 2 _____ m |
| | Lounge 2: 6.50 x 4.25 m |
| | Front garden: 10 x 8 m |
| | Rear garden: 3 _____ m, patio, lawn and flower beds |
| | Bedroom 1: 4 _____ m |
| | Bedroom 2: 5 _____ m |
| Bedroom 3: 3.25 x 2.5 m | |

06 Listen to the final conversation between the estate agent and client and answer these questions.

- 1 What information does the estate agent need?
- 2 How will the client get the money to pay for the house?
- 3 How long does the estate agent think it will take to sell the house?
- 4 The most important thing for the client is
 - A to stay a little longer where she is living now.
 - B to help her husband travel to work more easily.
 - C to move in before the end of the school holiday.

DEALING WITH DISTRACTORS

07 Look at this example and listen to part of the recording again.

- The en-suite bathroom will be useful because
- A it has a shower unit.
 - B it has a big bath.
 - C it helps everyone in the mornings.

Answer C is correct. A is true, but it is not the reason why it will be useful for the woman and her family. B is not true, because the other bathroom has a bath. C is correct because the speaker says that it will be useful when they all get up to get ready for school or work – and that happens in the morning.



In multiple-choice questions in the Listening test, there is one correct answer and two wrong answers. The wrong answers are called 'distractors'. They are designed to seem correct. For example, they use the same words as the recording, but with a different meaning. You have to make sure that the correct answer has the same meaning as the recording.

EXAM SKILLS

08 Listen to the final conversation again and choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

- 1 At the moment, Caroline lives in
 - A Prendergast Road.
 - B Lanchester Road.
 - C Riverside Road.
- 2 Caroline wants to make a first offer of
 - A £300,000.
 - B £350,000.
 - C £340,000.
- 3 Caroline and her family
 - A have sold their house.
 - B are selling their house now.
 - C will sell their house in two months' time.
- 4 It may take longer to sell the house if
 - A the bank does not check the house quickly.
 - B there are plans to do some building near the house.
 - C her husband has problems at work.
- 5 If the sellers do not accept her first offer, Caroline will need to
 - A increase her offer.
 - B come to an agreement in a week.
 - C contact her bank and ask for more money.

TIP 08

Remember that you need to focus on the **meaning** of the distractors.

TIP 08

To arrive at the correct answer, listen for **synonyms** and **similar expressions**, or for the same ideas expressed in a different way to the recording.

SPEAKING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- speak about various aspects of where you live for Speaking Part 1
- respond to *wh-*, *would* and *Yes/No* questions about where you live
- prepare more information for common Speaking Part 1 topics
- use syllable stress in words correctly.



LEAD-IN

01 In Part 1 of the Speaking test, you may be asked about your home town. Organise the words into things you like in your home town, things you don't like and things you would like to have, if they are not already in your home town.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| architecture | monuments | mountains | museums |
| parks | restaurants | rivers/lakes | shopping malls |
| weather | theatres | the sea | sports centres |



| Things I like | Things I don't like | Things I wish I had in my home town |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | |

02 Listen to an extract from Speaking Part 1 and answer these questions. Discuss your answers with a partner.

08



TIP 02

The *Why?* question usually comes last, and might be more difficult to answer. Try to explain clearly, but don't go into too much detail at this stage.

- 1 How many questions did the examiner ask?
- 2 What kind of questions did the examiner ask? What were the question words?
- 3 What two topics did the examiner cover?
- 4 Approximately how long did the student speak for each question? How many sentences did they use?

RESPONDING TO WH- QUESTIONS

03 Listen again to the recording from exercise 2. Note down useful language the student uses.

08

Home

Shopping



Most Speaking Part 1 questions are *Wh-* questions. These include *What?*, *Who?*, *When?*, *Where?* and *Why?*

04 With a partner, ask and answer these questions.

Your home town

- 1 Where do you come from?
- 2 What is the weather like in your home town?
- 3 When is the best time of year to visit your home town?
- 4 Why do you like/not like your home town?

Your accommodation

- 1 Where are you living now?
- 2 Who else do you live with?
- 3 What is your favourite room in your home?
- 4 Why do you like/not like the place where you live?

05 Some questions ask you to think about something you *might* do, using 'would'. Ask and answer these questions with a partner.

- 1 Would you recommend your house/apartment to another person?
- 2 Would you move house if you had the chance?
- 3 Would you like to buy a house in your home town one day?
- 4 Would you like to live by yourself or with family/friends?

THINKING OF MORE INFORMATION

- 06** These words are useful when talking about your home town. Write four sentences about each, using prompts 1–4.

culture historical monument museums nightlife
parks restaurants shopping weather

- 1 People in my home town usually/don't often go out at night because _____.
- 2 My favourite thing about my home town is the culture because _____.
- 3 A famous historical place in my home town is _____.
- 4 I like / don't like the weather in my home town because _____.

There are a number of possible topics you might be asked about in Speaking Part 1, such as the news, entertainment or sport. To prepare for this, you need to know some basic information about each topic.

RESPONDING TO YES/NO QUESTIONS

- 07** Match questions 1–6 with answers a–f.

- 1 Do you live near the sea?
- 2 Is there anything you don't like about where you live?
- 3 Is your house in the city or the countryside?
- 4 Do you live in a house or an apartment?
- 5 Is there anything special you can do in your home town?
- 6 Are there any interesting places to visit in your home town?

- a We live in the suburbs, just outside the city, about 20 minutes' drive by car.
- b Yes, we live on the coast, and we can see the beach from our window – it's pretty nice.
- c Not really, I think my home town is a little boring. We mostly take a train to Shanghai when we want to do something.
- d Yes, the weather there is pretty terrible. We only get about six weeks of summer, and it's very cold most of the time.
- e Yes, there are many monuments and museums to see – we have a lot of culture and history.
- f We currently live in a small apartment on the 33rd floor. My last house was much bigger ...

TIP 07

It is not enough to just say Yes/No. Try to add at least two sentences with extra information, explaining your answer.

Other types of question ask for a Yes/No response. These questions usually start with Do(es) or Is/Are.

- 08** Ask and answer these questions about your home town/accommodation.

Your home town

- 1 Do you live in the city or the countryside?
- 2 Do you live near the sea?
- 3 Is there anything special that people do in your home town?
- 4 Are there any interesting places to visit in your home town?

Your accommodation

- 5 Do you live in a house or an apartment?
- 6 Is your house in the city or the countryside?
- 7 Do other people live with you?
- 8 Is there anything you don't like about where you live?

THINKING OF NEW IDEAS

- 09** Try to write FOUR questions (either Wh-? or Yes/No questions) for each topic in the mindmap. Ask and answer questions with a partner.

Weather

Do you like the weather in your home town?
When was the last time it was really cold in your home town?
Does it ever snow in your home town?
When is the best time of year to visit your home town?

Shopping

Culture

Monuments

Restaurants

Nightlife

Museums

Parks

You may be asked about a topic you know well, but the exact question could be unfamiliar. It can be useful to make your own questions for a topic to explore new ideas you have not thought about before.

- 10** Add TWO more topics to the mindmap.

SYLLABLE STRESS

- 11** Listen to the sentences. Underline the stressed syllable in the words.

09

Right now, I am living in an apartment with my friends.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 a / part / ment | 5 es / ca / la / tors | 9 res / i / den / tial | 13 ge / og / ra / phy |
| 2 ac / comm / o / da / tion | 6 in / ha / bi / tants | 10 sta / di / um | 14 re / gion / al |
| 3 ar / chi / tec / ture | 7 mon / u / ment | 11 coun / try / side | 15 temp / er / a / ture |
| 4 con / struc / tion | 8 mu / se / um | 12 en / vi / ron / ment | 16 sce / ne / ry |

- 12** Listen to the words again and repeat them with the correct syllable stress.

10

EXAM SKILLS

- 13** Answer these questions about accommodation and your home town. Reply with THREE SENTENCES ONLY for each question.

- 1 Where do you come from?
- 2 Are there any special places that tourists visit in your home town?
- 3 When is the best time of year to visit your home town?
- 4 Why do you like / don't you like your home town?
- 5 Where are you living now – in a house or an apartment?
- 6 Does anyone else live with you?
- 7 What is your favourite room where you live?
- 8 Would you recommend your accommodation to another person?