

- **rise** (rises, rising, rose, risen)
surge (surges, surging, surged)

1. VERB

If something **rises**, it becomes greater in number, level, or amount. If an amount or level of something **surges**, it rises quickly and steeply.

Pretax profits rose from £842,000 to £1.82m.

Tourist trips in Britain rose by 10.5% between 1977 and 1987.

The number of business failures has risen.

... surging prices.

2. NOUN-COUNT

If there is a **rise** in the number, level, or amount of something, it becomes greater. If there is a **surge** in the number, level, or amount of something, it becomes greater very quickly and suddenly.

... the prospect of another rise in interest rates.

Book sales totalled £886 million, a rise of 1.6%.

... a surge in the number of people out of work.

Common collocations

to rise sharply to rise rapidly to rise dramatically

- increase (increases, increasing, increased)
decrease (decreases, decreasing, decreased)

1. VERB

If something **increases** or if you **increase** it, it becomes greater in number, level, or amount. If something **decreases** or if you **decrease** it, it becomes less in quantity, size, or intensity.

Japan's industrial output increased by 2%.

The company has increased the price of its cars.

The increased investment will help stabilise the economy.

The number of independent firms decreased from 198 to 96.

Raw-steel production decreased 2.1% last week.

We've got stable labor, decreasing interest rates, low oil prices.

2. NOUN-COUNT

If there is an **increase** in the number, level, or amount of something, it becomes greater. A **decrease** in the quantity, size, or intensity of something is a reduction in it.

... a sharp increase in productivity.

He called for an increase of 1p on income tax.

There has been a decrease in the number of people out of work.

... a decrease of 40 per cent.

Common Collocations

to increase sharply a marked increase
to significantly increase/decrease a dramatic increase/decrease
a significant increase/decrease

- **improve** (improves, improving, improved) VERB
improvement (improvements) NOUN-VAR

If something **improves** or if you **improve** it, it gets better. If there is an **improvement** in something, it becomes better. If you make **improvements** to something, you make it better.

The euro's rate against the dollar will also improve.

They were warned they were in danger of losing their franchises unless they made vast improvements to services.

If there is room for improvement in employment regulations or human resources, the software will show this.

- **soar** (soars, soaring, soared) VERB
plummet (plummets, plummeting, plummeted) VERB

If an amount or level of something **soars**, it rises quickly and steeply. If something **plummets**, it falls rapidly or steeply.

Shares have soared to an all-time high.

House prices have plummeted in this area.

- **fall** (falls, falling, fell, fallen)
drop (drops, dropping, dropped)
plunge (plunges, plunging, plunged)

1. VERB

If something **falls**, it decreases in amount, value, or strength. If a level or amount **drops**, or if someone or something **drops** it, it quickly becomes less. If a level **plunges**, it drops violently and suddenly.

As the service sector has grown, the importance of oil to the economy has fallen.

... a time of falling living standards.

The price of used cars dropped by 9.3 per cent.

He had dropped the price of his London home by £1.25m.

Share prices plunged as a result of the gloomy economy forecast.

2. NOUN-COUNT

If there is a **fall** in something, it decreases in amount, value, or strength. If there is a **drop** in the level or amount of something, it decreases quickly. If there is a **plunge** in the level or amount of something, it falls suddenly and violently.

There was a sharp fall in the value of the pound.

He was prepared to take a drop in wages.

London-focused estate agent Foxtons has blamed a plunge in profits on Brexit uncertainty and stamp duty changes.

... a plunge into debt.

Common collocations

to drop/fall sharply a significant drop/fall
to drop/fall dramatically a dramatic drop/fall

- **level off** (levels off, levelling off, levelled off)
PHRASAL VERB
stabilize (stabilizes, stabilizing, stabilized) VERB

If a changing number or amount **levels off**, it stops increasing or decreasing at such a fast speed. If something **stabilizes** or **is stabilized**, it becomes stable.

There are predictions that prices will level off in the new year.

Officials hope the move will stabilize exchange rates.

Through this mechanism the price of the commodity can be stabilized over time, avoiding short-term fluctuations in price.

- **peak** (peaks, peaking, peak)
- 1. VERB When something peaks, it reaches its highest value or its highest level.
British unemployment is likely to peak in the winter of 2002-03.

2. NOUN-COUNT

If there is a **peak** in the price, volume or amount of something, the price, volume, or amount of it suddenly increases.

In the North East, for example, there are twice as many vacancies as there were at the peak of the last boom in 1988.

Skiing prices normally reach a peak at February half-term.

- **slump** (slumps, slumping, slumped)

1. VERB

If the value or amount of something **slumps**, it falls suddenly or greatly.

Profits slumped from £12 million to £1.4 million.

2. NOUN-COUNT

If there is a **slump** in something, after falling suddenly it enters a period of sustained low performance.

...an economic slump.

... a slump in car sales.

- **spike** (spikes, spiking, spiked)

1. VERB

When a price or value of something **spikes**, it increases significantly in a short period of time and reaches its highest value. When a price or value of something **spikes negatively**, it decreases significantly in a short period of time and reaches its lowest value.

The U.S. Economic Policy Uncertainty Index, shown below, has spiked three times over the past 16 years.

There were times when the market spiked negatively and being restless has led me to sell moments before market corrected itself.

2. NOUN-COUNT

A **spike** in the price or value of something is a comparatively large upward or downward movement in a short period of time.

A good example of a negative spike in the financial markets is the infamous stock market crash of Oct. 19, 1987, when the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) plunged 22% in a single day.

As shown below, Brexit caused a spike in economic uncertainty far above any other time this century.

- dip (dips, dipping, dipped)

1. VERB

When the price, value or amount of something dips, it drops below the normal level or upward trend for a short period of time.

Second-quarter growth dipped from a peak at the start of the year in Poland and the Czech Republic ...

2. NOUN-COUNT

When there is a dip in the price, value or amount of something, it briefly drops below the normal level or upward trend for a short period of time.

When a security begins declining in price, it is difficult to know if the decline is just a dip or if it is the initial step in a more substantial price reduction.

- **decline** (declines, declining, declined) VERB

decline (declines) NOUN-VAR

If something **declines**, it decreases in quantity, importance or strength. If there is a **decline** in something, it becomes less in quantity, importance or quality.

The number of staff has declined from 217,000 to 114,000.

Hourly output by workers declined 1.3% in the first quarter.

The first signs of economic decline became visible.

The primary reason for the scheme's failure, Bush argued, was a slumping economy and a decline in the value of real estate.

- **constant** ADJ

If an amount or level is **constant**, it stays the same over a particular period of time.

Earnings have remained constant despite the strength of sterling.

It says more than one-hundred-thousand immigrants would be needed annually to keep the workforce at a constant level.

- **fluctuate** (fluctuates, fluctuating, fluctuated)

VERB

fluctuation (fluctuations) NOUN-VAR

If the price, value or amount of something fluctuates, over a period of time it rises and falls in an irregular way. If there is a fluctuation in the price, value or amount of something, over a period of time it rises and falls in an irregular way.

Oil has fluctuated between losses and gains in recent days ...

... which will prevent its value from fluctuating too wildly

We saw extreme fluctuations in exchange rates between currencies in these countries, coupled with the strong appreciation of the euro.








- **trough** (troughs) NOUN-COUNT

When economic or financial activity is in a **trough**, it is at its lowest point in the business cycle.

Greek output is now 3.7 per cent higher than its trough in mid-2015 ...

1. Put each of the verbs showing change into the correct place in the table.

- to rise to increase to decrease to improve to fall to drop to stabilize
- to level off to reach a peak to peak to remain constant to fluctuate to surge
- to plunge to dip to soar to plummet to slump to decline

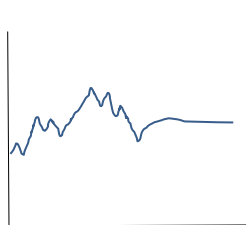
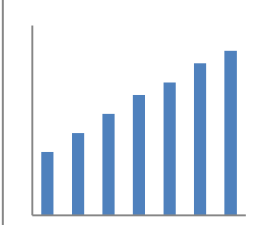
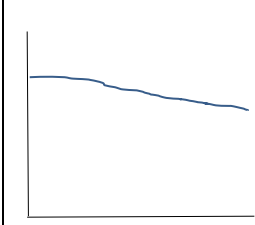
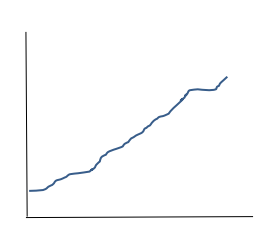
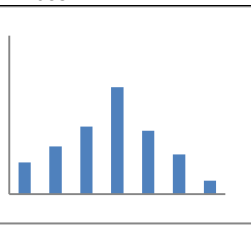
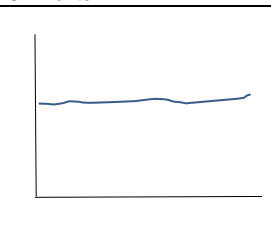
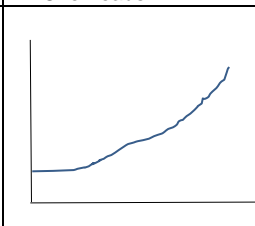
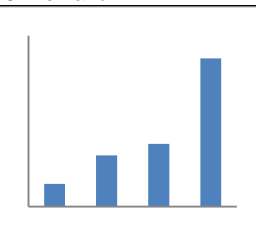
						

2. Wordbuilding

- a. True or false? The following terms do not have a corresponding noun:
 to level off to reach a peak to remain constant to soar to plummet
- b. Write the noun form, where appropriate, of the verbs in the table above.

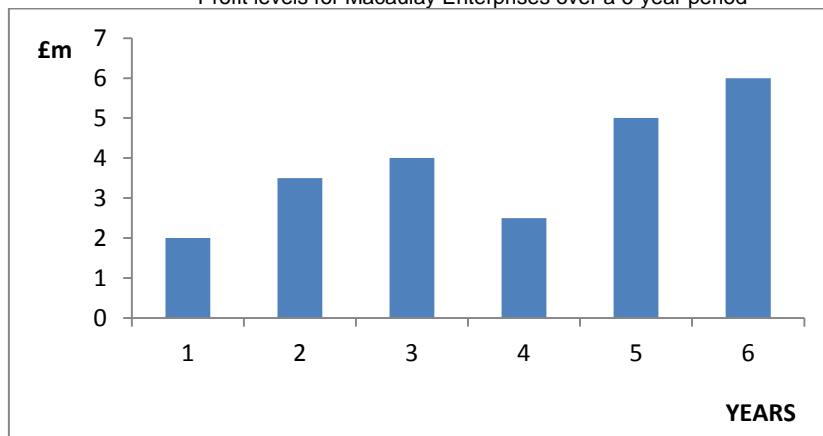
3. The eight graphs describe the trading performance of Manton Inc. Choose one of the terms in the box to describe each graph.

- grew rapidly*
- fell slightly*
- rose sharply*
- levelled off*
- remained constant*
- peaked dramatically*
- increased gradually*
- improved steadily*

1. Turnover 	2. Costs 	3. Sales 	4. Output 
5. Prices 	6. Profits 	7. Overheads 	8. Demand 

4. Look at the bar chart and circle the correct word in each sentence to describe it.

Profit levels for Macaulay Enterprises over a 6-year period



- a. Profit has increased/ remained constant/ decreased over the 6-year period.
- b. There was a levelling off/ temporary fall/ peak in profits in year 4.
- c. Profit over the period has increased steadily/ slightly.

5. Change the verb in each statement to reverse the trend. You may need to make other changes.

- a. The price of oil soared on Monday following an attack on Saudi Arabian facilities.
- b. Women's labour force participation rate remained constant in the first nine months of 2018.
- c. The price of wheat has surged more than 80% from its seven-month low in June.