

# English Ladder

## Teaching Guide

### Describing Trends

A concise classroom guide with lesson flow, teaching cues, and a ready-to-use answer key built around the same English Ladder concept sheet.



Grammar Concepts #43


Key Points

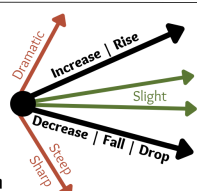
#### Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **Describing Trends** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

**ENGLISH LADDER**

Concept #43 ▶ **Describing Trends**

 Trends are movements over time. The arrows on the right show many of the terms we use to describe trends. The **black terms** are both nouns or verbs. The **red and green terms** are adjectives (matching nouns) that can be converted into adverbs (matching verbs). Consider the examples below.




- The **sharp increase** in sales was surprising. **adjective + noun**
- Sales **sharply increased** last month. **adverb + verb**
- Recently there has been a **slight fall** in sales. **adjective + noun**
- Sales **have fallen slightly** this year. **verb + adverb**

Adverbs are flexible and can go either before or after the verb.


**Trend Progression Example**  
(Trend terms are underlined.)

**Other Terms**

- Sales were **stable**. (good news)
- Sales were **flat**. (bad news)
- Sales have been **fluctuating**.
- Sales **recovered**.



**For most of 2020, there were relatively few COVID-19 cases in Japan. However, there was a surge in cases near the beginning of 2021 to about 6k, lasting about two months. Due to a ban on in-bound travellers, cases dramatically fell. However, there was another sharp rise in cases that peaked in May of 2021, reaching the level of January's high. But, once again, cases dropped steeply in June. However, during the Tokyo Olympics, the number of cases dramatically rose to nearly 24k by the middle of September. Cases sharply decreased a month later to reach nearly zero by December of 2021.**



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## At a Glance

<p><b>Lesson focus</b> Describing Trends</p>	<p><b>Suggested timing</b> 45-60 minutes</p>
<p><b>Core objective</b> Students explain the target pattern clearly and apply it accurately in controlled practice and discussion.</p>	<p><b>Materials</b> Student PDF, the concept image, board space, and time for partner checking.</p>

## Suggested Lesson Flow

<b>Warm-up</b>	Display the concept image and ask learners to predict the rule behind <b>Describing Trends</b> before reading the explanation.
<b>Model</b>	Walk through the Core Idea and the sections on Key Points. Pause after each part so students can restate the pattern in plain English.
<b>Guided practice</b>	Project two or three examples from the concept sheet and ask pairs to explain why each choice works, not just what the answer is.
<b>Independent work</b>	Assign the 24 practice items for quiet work, partner checking, and final feedback.
<b>Closure</b>	Ask students to create one new sentence or mini-example of their own that follows the same pattern.



## Likely Learner Errors

- Learners may overgeneralize the first pattern they notice. Keep returning to **Key Points** and ask students to explain what changes from one example to the next.
- Long explanations can hide the signal word or structure. Have students underline the exact phrase that tells them which form, pattern, or response is needed.
- If students can choose an answer but cannot explain it, ask them to justify their choice using words taken directly from the concept sheet.

## Differentiation and Delivery Notes

- Support: teach one section at a time, then send students back to **the examples** or the practice set so they can apply the same rule immediately.
- Pair work: let students compare answers aloud before you reveal the key. The explanation step is as important as the final answer.
- Extension: ask stronger students to write two fresh examples or a short dialogue that uses the same target language accurately.

## Model Language from the Concept Sheet

- "The company experienced a sharp increase in customer inquiries following the product launch." Explanation: Here, "sharp increase" implies that the number of customer inquiries rose quickly and by a large margin, emphasizing the impact of the product launch.
- "There has been a slight fall in the stock prices after the earnings report." Explanation: In this context, "slight fall" suggests that the stock prices decreased, but the change was minimal, potentially indicating market stability despite the earnings report.
- "Sales figures sharply increased in response to the new marketing campaign." Explanation: The adverb "sharply" conveys the idea that the sales figures did not just increase, but did so in a manner that was both sudden and significant, underscoring the effectiveness of the campaign.
- "The unemployment rate has fallen slightly over the past month." Explanation: "Fallen slightly" indicates that while there was a decrease in unemployment, the change was minor, hinting at a stable labor market.
- Dramatic / Dramatically: Usage: These terms are used to describe very large or sudden changes....
- Slight / Slightly: Usage: These terms indicate a small or minor change....



## Answer Key

Use this key for whole-class feedback or fast marking.

ITEM 01 a) dramatic

ITEM 02 a) rose

ITEM 03 c) significant

ITEM 04 a) improve

ITEM 05 a) rise

ITEM 06 a) decrease

ITEM 07 c) rose

ITEM 08 a) is

ITEM 09 a) recover

ITEM 10 b) fluctuating

ITEM 11 a) fall

ITEM 12 a) dropped

ITEM 13 a) rise

ITEM 14 c) recovered



ITEM 15 c) rising

ITEM 16 c) begun

ITEM 17 a) increase

ITEM 18 b) recover

ITEM 19 a) slight

ITEM 20 a) improving

ITEM 21 a) draw

ITEM 22 b) has been

ITEM 23 a) rise

ITEM 24 a) grow



## Feedback Cues

- Item 01: Explanation: "Dramatic" correctly describes a large and sudden increase. "Sharp" would also be correct, but "slightly" and "gradually" do not appropriately describe a significant increase in profits.
- Item 02: Explanation: "Rose" is the correct past tense form of the verb "rise." "Risen" is the past participle and requires an auxiliary verb, "raising" is the present participle, and "rise" is the base form, none of which fit this context.
- Item 03: Explanation: "Significant" is an adjective that modifies the noun "decrease," and it fits well to describe a meaningful reduction in sales. "Slightly" and "sharply" are adverbs and does not fit here.
- Item 04: Explanation: "Improved" is the correct past tense form of the verb "improve" following the auxiliary "has." The other options are either in the incorrect tense or are ungrammatical.
- Item 05: Explanation: "Risen" is the correct past participle form of "rise" used with the auxiliary "has." "Rose" is the simple past and does not fit the perfect aspect, while "rise" and "raising" are incorrect forms in this context.
- Item 06: Explanation: "Decreased" is the correct past participle form following "have." "Decrease" is incorrect because it is the base form of the verb, and the other options imply passive or continuous actions that do not fit the context.