

《學術英語Power Up》 Unit 2

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課程名稱：應用英語表達

教學主題：How to describe tables?



What are tables (表格)?

- Containing data that can be complex with many categories divided into **rows (列)** and **columns (欄)**.

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

Group discussion: Answer the following questions based on the table.

Most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

1. What is the table about?
2. Which was the favorite brand among students?
3. What percentages did the most popular brand account for in 2020 and 2022 respectively?

Most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

1. What is the table about?

The table is about the most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students.

2. Which was the **favorite brand** among students?

Brand A was the favorite drink among students.

3. What percentages did **the most popular** brand account for in 2020 and 2022 respectively?

It accounted for 45% in 2020 and 44% in 2022.

Most
remarkable
features

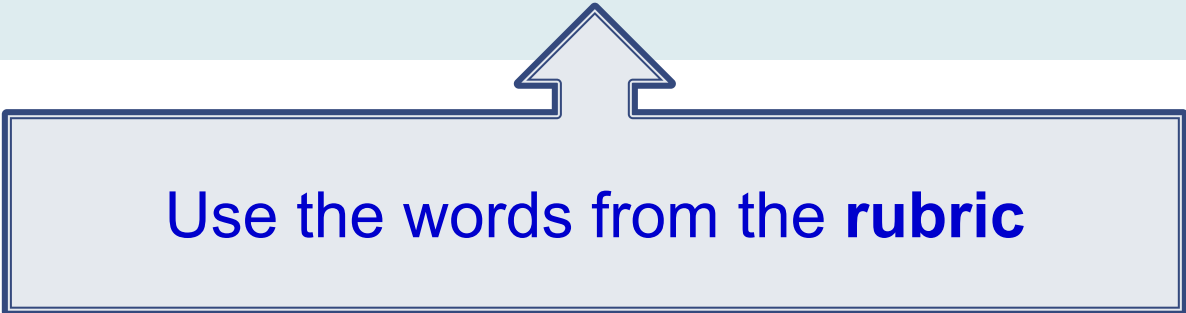
Structure

1	Introduction	• Paraphrase the information provided • Talk about the information in synonyms.
2	Overview	• Describe the main features: most remarkable ones • Compare the significant differences
3	Body : main features in detail + 1–2 more features in detail	• be accurate when you're describe the data • Use the units, e.g., %, \$ to give more details about the chosen features

Useful language for **Introduction**

1. The table **shows/illustrates/presents/displays/provides** information about...

e.g. The table **shows** the most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students.



Use the words from the **rubric**

Overview: Remarkable Features

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

1. Which brand was the most popular in 2020?
2. Which brand was the least popular in 2020?
3. Which brand was the most popular in 2022?
4. Which brand was the least popular in 2022?

Overview: Remarkable Features

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

1. Which brand was the **most popular** in 2020?
2. Which brand was the **least popular** in 2020?
3. Which brand was the **most popular** in 2022?
4. Which brand was the **least popular** in 2022?

What are remarkable features?

1. **Key numbers**, e.g. the biggest in each category in the table
2. The **biggest changes** in numbers over the time period
3. The **smallest numbers** can be mentioned as well.

Overview: Remarkable Features

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

1. Which brand was the **most popular** in 2020?
2. Which brand was the **least popular** in 2020?
3. Which brand was the **most popular** in 2022?
4. Which brand was the **least popular** in 2022?

Choose **the highest/lowest** and **the most/least** among all the categories.

Description of Remarkable Features

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

Brand A was the most popular brand in both 2020 and 2022.

Brand C was the least popular brand in 2020.

Brand B was the least popular brand in 2022.

Overview: Comparing

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

Question: What's the difference between Brand C and the other 2 brands in 2020 and 2022?

Overview: Comparing

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

Question: What's the difference between Brand C and the other 2 brands in 2020 and 2022?

The percentages of Brand A and B **decreased** from 45% to 44% and 30% to 21%, respectively.

The percentage of Brand C **increased** from 25% to 35%.

Useful Language for Comparing

Compare and Contrast

- while
- on the other hand
- on the contrary
- in contrast
- however
- although

Overview: Comparing

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

The percentage of Brand A **decreased** from 45% to 44%.

The percentage of Brand C **increased** from 25% to 35%.

The percentages of Brand A and Brand B decreased in 2020 and 2022; **however**, the percentage of Brand C increased from 25% to 35%.

Group discussion: Complete the text and write your answers on the whiteboard.

	Brand A	Brand B	Brand C
2020	45%	30%	25%
2022	44%	21%	35%

The table 1)_____ the most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students in 2020 and 2022. Among the three brands, Brand A was 2)_____ among students in both 2020 and 2022, which 3)_____ 45% and 44%, respectively. The percentages of both Brand A and Brand B dropped in the two years. 4)_____, the percentage of Brand C increased from 25% to 35%, showing the change of the brand.

Group discussion: Complete the text and write your answers on the whiteboard.

The table **shows/illustrates/provides important information about** the most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students in 2020 and 2022. Among the three brands, Brand A was **the most popular** among students in both 2020 and 2022, which **accounted for/made up** 45% and 44%, respectively. The percentages of both Brand A and Brand B dropped in the two years. **On the other hand**, the percentage of Brand C increased from 25% to 35%, showing the change of the brand.

Expressions of Approximation

An approximation is **a number, amount**, etc. that is **not exact**, but is intended to give an idea of the real number, amount, etc.

less	about the same	more
just under	roughly nearly approximately about	over just over

Group discussion: Rewrite the numbers replacing the exact numbers with approximations.

1. 48%	2. 90,083
nearly half	
3. 14.7%	4. \$1.98 million

less	about the same	more
just under	roughly nearly approximately about	over just over

Group discussion: Rewrite the numbers replacing the exact numbers with approximations.

1. 48%	2. 90,083
nearly half	just over 90,000
3. 14.7%	4. \$1.98 million
just under 15%	just under/roughly/ nearly/ approximately/ about \$2 million

less	about the same	more
just under	roughly nearly approximately about	over just over

Group discussion: Discuss with your group members and think whether there is another way to rewrite the percentages.

The table shows/illustrates/provides important information about the most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students in 2020 and 2022. Among the three brands, Brand A was the most popular among students in both 2020 and 2022, which accounted for/made up 45% and 44%, respectively. The percentages of both Brand A and Brand B dropped in the two years. On the other hand, the percentage of Brand C increased from 25% to 35%, showing the change of the brand.

You can use fractions!!

The table shows/illustrates/provides important information about the most popular drink choices among Jin Tai University students in 2020 and 2022. Among the three brands, Brand A was the most popular among students in both 2020 and 2022, which accounted for/made up 45% and 44%, respectively. The percentages of both Brand A and Brand B dropped in the two years. On the other hand, the percentage of Brand C increased from **a quarter (25%) to just over one-third (35%)**, showing the change of the brand.

The table below shows the results of a study conducted by students at Jintai University regarding the characteristics of Generations X, Y, and Z.

Characteristics	Generation X	Generation Y	Generation Z
Year of birth	1965-1980	1981-1996	1997-2012
Number of people worldwide	1.5 to 1.7 billion	1.8 to 2 billion	1.9 to 2.1 billion
% of world population	19-22%	23-25%	24-26%
Signature products (代表物品)	Personal computers 	Mobile devices (e.g., mobile phones) 	Wearable devices (e.g., smart watches) 

1. What is the table about?
2. Define the three generations with years of birth and numbers.

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1. What is the table about?
2. Define the three generations with years of birth and numbers.

Summarize a Table

Characteristics	Generation X	Generation Y	Generation Z
Year of birth	1965-1980	1981-1996	1997-2012
Number of people worldwide	1.5 to 1.7 billion	1.8 to 2 billion	1.9 to 2.1 billion
% of world population	19-22%	23-25%	24-26%
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Pair discussion:

Summarize the information of Generation X.

Characteristics	Generation X	Generation Y	Generation Z
Year of birth	1965-1980	1981-1996	1997-2012
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Pair discussion:

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- **4 facts** about the generation:
- 1. Year of birth
- 2. Number of people worldwide
- 3. Percentage of world population and
- 4. Signature product

Pair discussion:

Summarize the information of Generation X.

■ **4 facts** about the generation

Characteristics	Generation X
Year of birth	1965-1980
Number of people worldwide	1.5 to 1.7 billion
% of world population	19-22%
Signature products (代表物品)	Personal computers 

1. **Year of birth:** Generation X **refers to** the people born from 1965 to 1980.
2. **Number of people worldwide:** The number of the generation is 1.5 to 1.7 billion worldwide.
3. **Percentage of world population:** The generation **makes up/accounts for** 19-22% of the global generation.
4. **Signature products:** Personal computers, mobile phones, etc.

When talking about portions/percentages, we use **account for/make up**.



寫作練習活動

Writing task: Describe the table. Do remember to compare three types of household expenditures in Taiwan over the decades from 2001 to 2021.

Table 1 Household expenditure in Taiwan for 2001, 2011 and 2021

Year	Total Expenditure (NT\$)	Food and Beverages		Health		Recreation, culture, and education	
		Expenditure (NT\$)	%	Expenditure (NT\$)	%	Expenditure (NT\$)	%
2001	657,872	113,755	17%	75,223	11%	79,179	12%
2011	729,010	118,263	16%	106,607	15%	75,697	10%
2021	815,442	129,023	16%	144,966	18%	51,718	6%

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in 2022, p.87.



Class Dismissed!

