

Making a Line Graph

1. **Collect your data.**
2. **Label your X axis and your Y axis.**

The independent variable (what you changed) will go on the x-axis (the horizontal edge on the bottom)

The dependent variable (what you measured or counted) will go on the y-axis (the vertical edge on the left side).

All “big” words in the labels should begin with capital letters. Do not use symbols.

Labels on the axes must have units. The units of measurement are put in parentheses behind each label. They do not necessarily need to be capitalized.

3. **Create a Title.**
Use words from the X axis and the Y axis to create your title. Other people should be able to figure out what the graph is about without asking you.
4. **Number your X and Y axes.** The numbers should be evenly and logically spaced - like (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) or (2, 4, 6, 8), NOT (1.3, 2.6, 4.8). The numbers should be centered on the lines and not in the spaces. Use as much of the graph as possible to number each axis.
5. **Plot your data.** Place your data points on the graph. Make them big enough to be seen.
6. **Connect the Dots.**

Now you're done with your graph, but you're not *finished* yet.

7. **Think about what your graph means – analyze!**