

## Describing a Table

### Hints

- Use the title of the table to help you write about it;
- Mention what the table is about and what is it showing/measuring;
- Describe the main features of the table and compare the parameters;
- Use the information from the table and draw an overall conclusion.

**Table 1** The quality of life in five countries in 1982

Countries	GNP per head (in US\$)	Daily calories supply (per head)	Life expectancies at birth (years)	Infant mortalities (per 1000 live births)
Bangladesh	140	1877	40	132
Bolivia	570	2086	50	124
Egypt	690	2950	56	97
Indonesia	580	2296	49	87
USA	13160	3653	74	12

The table uses four economic indicators to show the standard of living in five selected countries in 1982. Overall, the quality of life in the USA was far higher than that of the other four countries. The USA, being a developed country, had the highest GNP, much higher daily calorie intake and life expectancy, and the lowest rate of infant mortality. The other developing countries had quality of life ratings that were significantly lower. The range of indicators for Egypt, Indonesia and Bolivia were similar, with Egypt having the highest quality of life amongst the three. However, the infant mortality in Egypt (97 per 1000) was slightly higher than that of Indonesia (87 per 1000). Bangladesh had the lowest quality of life in all the indicators. Its GNP was about one hundred times smaller than that of the USA. Its calorie intake and life expectancy were about half those of the USA, and its infant mortality rate was 10 times greater. The data presented in the table show a positive relationship between per capita income and quality of life in general.

**Table 2** Percentage of women in tertiary education in some selected countries

Countries	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Bulgaria	56.3	54.0	52.8	52.5	52.1
Denmark	56.5	57.5	57.9	57.9	57.4
Finland	53.9	54.1	53.5	53.4	53.6
Iceland	62.7	63.2	63.7	64.5	64.9
Japan	44.9	45.1	45.6	45.8	45.9
Norway	59.2	59.6	59.7	59.6	59.6
Sweden	59.1	59.5	59.6	59.6	59.6
UK	54.5	55.2	55.9	57.0	57.2
USA	55.9	56.3	56.6	57.1	57.2

In general, the table shows an increasing percentage of women in tertiary education in nine countries of the world. The only exception was Bulgaria where 56.3% of the tertiary student population was made up of women in 2001, whereas by 2005 this figure had fallen to 52.1%. In Finland, however, the percentage also dropped from 53.9 to 53.6. The country with the highest percentage of women in tertiary education was Iceland and this was also the country with the largest increase, rising from 62.7% to 64.9%. The most striking thing to notice in the table is that in all countries except Japan women made up significantly more than half of the student population in tertiary education. It is interesting to note that countries like Iceland, Norway and Sweden had greater percentage of women in tertiary education compared to the UK and USA.

### References

IELTS (2013) <http://www.ieltsbuddy.com/ielts-table.html>

Essay Builder (2016) <http://www.essaybuilder.net/Table.html>

**Table 3** Population in major European countries in 1997 and 2007

Countries	1997	2007
France	59.5	63.4
Germany	81.8	82.3
Italy	56.8	59.1
Poland	38.6	38.1
Spain	39.4	44.5
Turkey	62.3	73.4
UK	58.1	60.9

The table shows the populations of major European countries in 1997 and 2007. In all countries except Poland, the population increased during this period. The largest rise was in Turkey where the population increased from over 62 to over 73 million, whereas the smallest increase was in Germany where the population of 82 million increased only by a few thousand. Spain also had a fairly large increase from 39.4 million to 44.5 million, and France was not far behind with an increase of almost 4 million. In the other two countries, Italy and the UK, population growth was more modest with increases of about 2.3 and 2.8 million respectively. In Poland, the population fell by half a million. Poland had the smallest population in both 1997 and 2007. Although Spain and Poland had comparable populations in 1997, Spain's population is now nearly six and a half million greater than Poland's.

**References**

IELTS (2013) <http://www.ieltsbuddy.com/ielts-table.html>  
Essay Builder (2016) <http://www.essaybuilder.net/Table.html>