

You may want to refer to Outcome 1 to remind yourself what a component bar chart looks like.

Example 5

Suppose we wish to illustrate the information below, representing the number of people participating in the activities offered by an outdoor pursuits centre during June of three consecutive years.

	1995	1996	1997
Climbing	21	34	30
Caving	10	12	21
Walking	75	85	100
Sailing	36	36	40

Solution:

The first thing we have to do is to total the number in each year so that we can establish how high the vertical axis must be.

	1995	1996	1997
Climbing	21	34	30
Caving	10	12	21
Walking	75	85	100
Sailing	36	36	40
Total	142	167	191

We see that the highest total is 191, so our vertical axis needs to reach the round figure of 200.

Because years are involved it makes most sense to have three large bars, one for each year, and have each bar subdivided into its four components (= the four activities). In other words, we are thinking 'activities within years'.

For 1995, the climbing section will stretch from the horizontal axis up as far as 21.

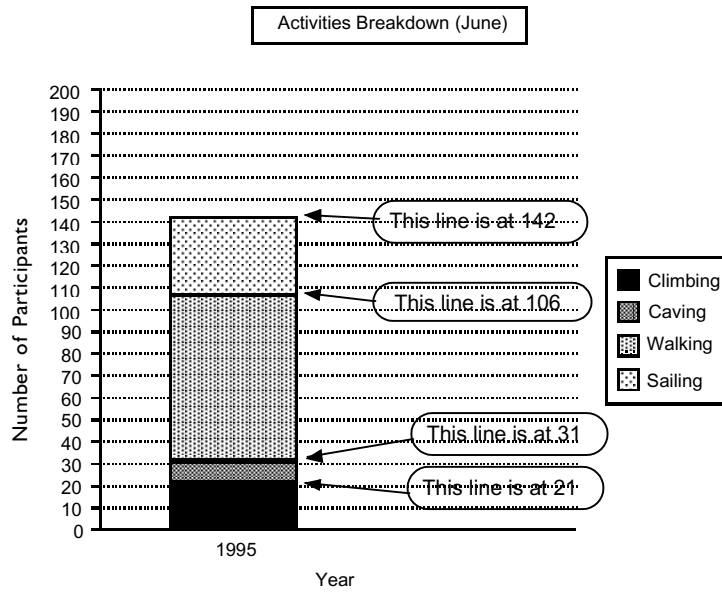
The caving section will be a further 10 on top of the 21, i.e. will stretch up to 31.

The walking section will be a further 75 on top of this, i.e. will stretch as far as 106.

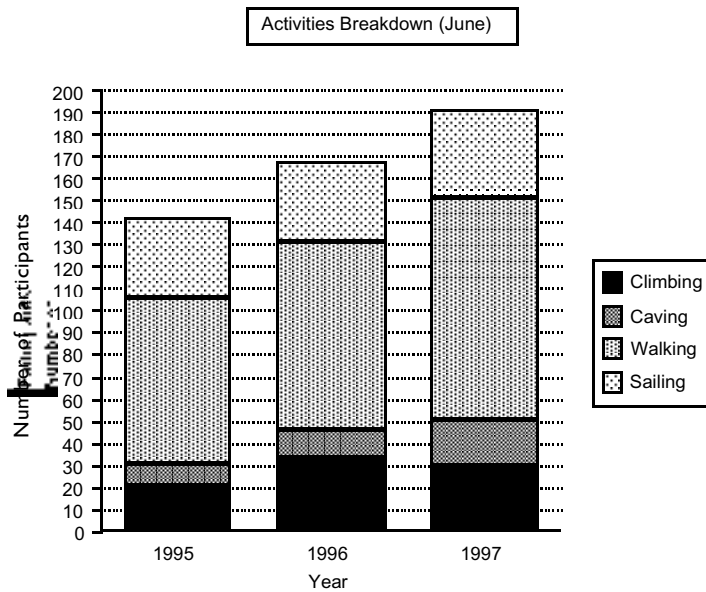
The sailing section will fill up the rest of the column, i.e. its 36 will take us up to 142.

The next page shows what the final column looks like for 1995.

It is prepared on a computer for speed.



We now repeat the procedure for the other two years and get the final chart as shown here.



It doesn't matter if Climbing is at the bottom of the column or at the top, so long as all the columns have their components in the same order.

? 5

1. The output of an electrical company (in thousands) is as follows. Illustrate this information with an appropriate chart (a component bar chart!).

	Personal Stereos	TV Sets	Video Recorders	Hi-fis
1995	23.4	18.6	7.3	2.7
1996	25.2	18.6	8.5	18.5
1997	19.7	20.5	9.4	20.6

2. Draw a component bar chart to illustrate the table below, for which you've already drawn a compound bar chart. Will it be 'medals within countries or countries within medals'? I know which one I'd choose.

And don't worry that there are a couple of zeros in the table. Some of the bars will simply have one shading less than the rest. No problem!

	USA	Russia	Germany	China	UK
Gold	15	8	6	12	3
Silver	23	17	0	10	2
Bronze	14	18	5	0	6