

3. Complete the sentences with the words and phrases below:

peaked	decreased sharply	increased slightly	went down slowly
remained steady	increased sharply	fluctuated a little	
fluctuated a lot	stayed the same	decreased slightly	

1. Sales for the first quarter of the year **remained steady**, with no significant changes compared to the previous year.
2. The company's revenue **increased sharply** after the introduction of a new product line, exceeding initial projections.
3. The unemployment rate has **decreased slightly** in the past month, but experts predict it will continue to decrease.
4. After a surge in demand during the holiday season, customer traffic has **decreased sharply** in the new year.
5. The value of the stock **fluctuate a lot** over the past year, with investors experiencing significant gains and losses.
6. Despite several promotions, employee turnover has **stayed the same** in the last quarter.
7. The company's profits **decreased slightly**, causing management to consider cost-cutting measures.
8. Interest in the product **peaked** during the launch, but has since declined to pre-launch levels.
9. The cost of raw materials **went down slowly** over the past few months, resulting in a small price increase for consumers.
10. Demand for the company's services **fluctuated a little**, with no clear trend in either direction

AGAR SLANT

Agar slants are a form of solid media generated from the addition of a gelling agent, such as agar, to a broth culture. To prepare an agar slant, agar is added to the broth culture then heated within an autoclave to dissolve the agar and sterilize the media. This medium will then solidify at 42°C. Agar slants provide a large surface area on which to grow microorganisms and are frequently used as a method to temporarily store actively growing cultures.

5. Below we describe an aseptic protocol for the inoculation of an agar slant, however someone has mixed the steps. Write it in the correct order.

1 Flame a wire inoculating loop to sterilize it. The inoculating loop should be heated to a red glow using a Bunsen burner.

2. Allow the loop to cool before obtaining a culture. If the loop is too hot, it will cause the cells to burst

3. touch the plate with the inoculation loop onto the culture surface and gently gather a small amount of the microorganism
4. With your free hand, pick up the sterile agar slant and remove the cap with the fourth and fifth fingers of the hand that is holding the loop.
5. Pass the opening of the media tube through the Bunsen burner flame. This will kill any microorganisms on the lip of the tube.
- 6 Gently insert the inoculation loop into the test tube and gently streak the microbial culture onto the surface of the agar slant. Do not puncture the agar.
- 7 Remove the inoculation loop and flame the mouth of the test tube again, replacing the cap. Set the tube aside.
- 8 Sterilize the inoculating loop in the flame
- 9 Incubate the agar slant under the appropriate growth conditions.