

# Histograms

## Introduction

This material was drawn from materials developed by Milton Keynes Chamber as part of their Key Skills Support Programme development project.

## What is a histogram?

A histogram looks just like a bar chart but it has no gaps between the bars. This is because bar charts have discrete scales and histograms have continuous scales.

Discrete scales are usually whole numbers. We use them when we are counting a number of items. We use continuous scales, on the other hand, when we have to measure something rather than count it – for example, rainfall, height, age or temperature.

## How do we draw a histogram?

Look at the following table.

Rainfall (mm)	Frequency (days)
0 – 9	2
10 – 19	5
20 – 29	7
30 – 39	3
40 – 49	10
50 – 59	4

The histogram for this information is shown here:



