**Comparison/ Contrast Paragraph**

**Paragraphs that compare and contrast**

To compare means to discuss how two people, places, or things are similar. Both teachers and students need to spend a lot of time preparing for classes. To contrast means to discuss how two people, places, or things are different, for example:

- One main advantage of a bicycle over a car is that a bicycle doesn't create any pollution.

**Comparative and contrastive structures**

**Using comparative structures**

These words and phrases are used for writing comparisons:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **And** | The man **and** the woman are tall. |
| **Both** | **Both** of the tables have broken legs. |
| **Both … and** | **Both** my neighbour **and** I are selling our cars. |
| **Also** | The shops are closing for the bank holiday. The post office is **also** closing. |
| **Too** | Kathy is planning to go to the party, and I am, **too**. |
| **Neither … nor** | **Neither** Joe **nor** Steve went to the meeting last night. |
| **Similar to** | Their new computer is **similar** **to** the one my brother bought. |
| **The same as** | Is the restaurant where you had dinner **the same as** the place where I ate last month? |
| **(just) as + adjective + as** | His coat is **just as warm as** the more expensive one. |
| **Likewise** | My parents were born in a small village. **Likewise**, my brothers and I also grew in a small town. |
| **Similarly** | There are many parks to visit in that city. **Similarly**, there are several parks in my hometown, too. |

**Using contrastive structure**

These words and phrases are used for writing contrasts:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **More/ less + adjective/ adverb + than** | Eating out is usually **more expensive than** cooking at home. |
| **Adjective + er + than** | My bedroom is **bigger than** my sister's room. |
| **But, while, though** | I enjoy eating fruit for dessert, **but/while/though** my friend likes chocolate. |
| **Not the same as** | This book **isn't the same as** the one you bought. |
| **Not as … as** | Some people feel that doing exercise **isn't as fun as** watching TV. |
| **Different from** | That style of shirt is **different from** the styles most people wear. |
| **In contrast** | The lakes we swam in were very clean and beautiful. **In contrast**, the lakes in my country are polluted. |
| **However** | Then new shop sells its clothing at low prices. **However**, other shops have better quality clothing. |
| **On the other hand** | My boyfriend likes doing sport. **On the other hand**, I prefer doing yoga. |

**Similarities and Differences**

**Comparison/ Contrast Organization**

Two methods for organizing a comparison/ contrast paragraph:

**Method 1: Block Organization**

First, write about supporting points for the first topic. Then, compare or contrast those same points to the second topic. This type of organization could be outlined like this:

* Topic sentence comparing/ contrasting two topics (A and B).
* Points of comparison/ contrast about Topic A.
* Points of comparison/ contrast about Topic B.
* Concluding sentence.

**Method 2: Point-by-Point Organization**

Compare or contrast one point about the two topics, then a second point, then a third point, and so on. This type of organization could be outlined like this:

* Topic sentence comparing or contrasting two topics (A and B).
* First point of comparison/ contrast (A1, B1).
* Second point of comparison/ contrast (A2, B2).
* Third point of comparison/ contrast (A3, B3).
* Fourth point of comparison/ contrast (A4, B4).
* Fifth point of comparison/ contrast (A5, B5).
* Concluding sentence.

**Advantages and disadvantages**

**Writing about Advantages and disadvantages**

Another way to compare or contrast is to talk about Advantages (positive points) or disadvantages (negative points) of a topic. If you are writing about one topic, it is usually best to discuss advantages and disadvantages in two separate paragraphs. If you are comparing or contrasting two topics, you could organize the paragraph in either point-by-point or block style.