

# Compare & Contrast

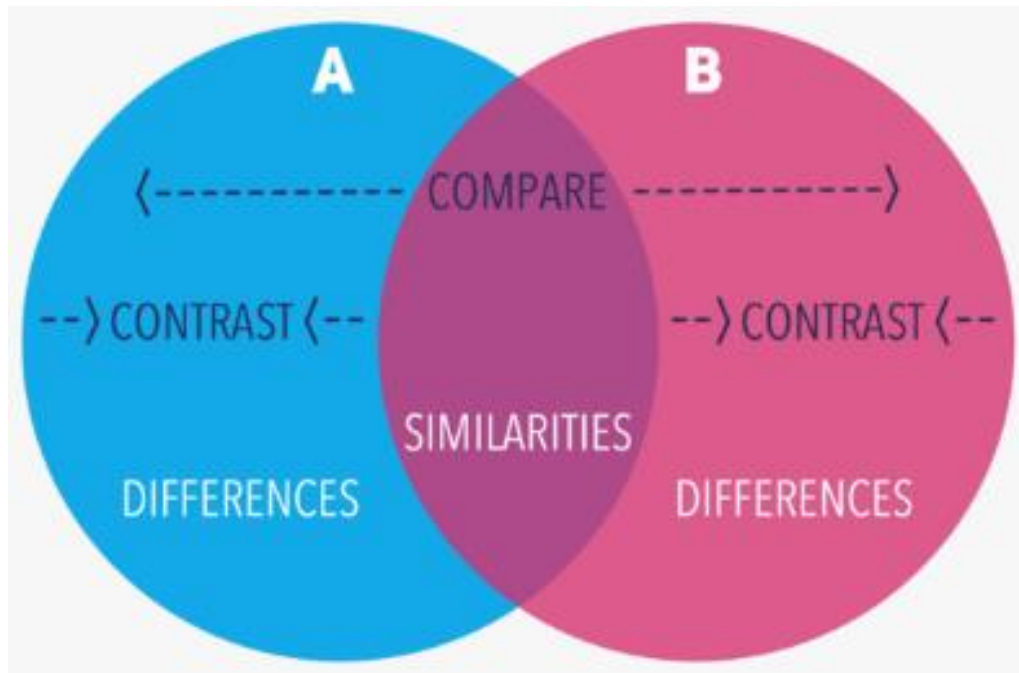


**By**

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# Compare and Contrast

Comparison in writing discusses elements that are similar, while contrast discusses elements that are different.



## COMPARE AND CONTRAST

IF STUDENT **COMPARES**,  
He explains what two things have in common.



IF STUDENT **CONTRASTS**,  
He explains the difference between two things.

Different

Alike

Different

# Transitional expressions used in comparison

Similarly

Likewise

also

both... and..

not only... but also...

neither... nor..

just like (+ noun)

similar to (+ noun)

to be similar (to)

to be the same as

to be alike

to compare (to/with)

# Examples!

- Computers can be used to communicate easily, for example via email. **Similarly/Likewise**, the mobile phone is a convenient tool for communication.
- **Both** computers **and** mobile phones can be used to communicate easily with other people.
- **Just like** the computer, the mobile phone can be used to communicate easily with other people.
- The computer **is similar to** the mobile phone in the way it can be used for easy communication.

## **Transitional expressions used in contrast:**

However

In contrast

In comparison

By comparison

On the other hand

while

whereas

but

to differ from

to be different (from)

to be dissimilar to

to be unlike

# Examples!

- Computers, although increasingly small, are not always easy to carry from one place to another. **However**, the mobile phone can be carried with ease.
- Computers are generally not very portable, **whereas** the mobile phone is.
- Computers **differ from** mobile phones in their lack of portability.
- Computers are **unlike** mobile phones in their lack of portability.

# A compare and/or contrast paragraph

A **compare and/or contrast** paragraph is required if you are asked to examine similarities and/or differences.

**Compare** focuses on similarities.

**Contrast** focuses on differences.



## **Compare and/or contrast paragraph goal**

It helps readers to make a decision on a particular topic of argument and to develop critical and analytical thinking.

# Ways to write a contrast and/or comparison paragraph

There are two ways to write a paragraph,  
first, there is **the point by point paragraph**  
and there is **the blocked paragraph**



# The point by point paragraph

In the point by point, writing back and forth between the two subjects. First, talking about topic A. then talk about topic B., then right back to topic A. and so on.

**Note: See the next plan and example**

# Sample paragraph

## What characteristics distinguish plants from animals?

### plan

<i>Feature 1</i> — Describe X, describe Y — identify similarities and differences →	<b>Compare and contrast feature by feature</b> <i>Feature 1</i> — describe sources of food for plants then for animals
<i>Feature 2</i> — Describe X, describe Y — identify similarities and differences. →	<i>Feature 2</i> — describe movement of plants and then of animals
<i>Feature n</i> — Describe X, describe Y — identify similarities and differences. →	<i>Feature 3</i> — external appearance of plants then of animals

# Answer!

## What characteristics distinguish plants from animals?

There are several characteristics which distinguish plants from animals. Green plants are able to manufacture their own food from substances in the environment. This process is known as photosynthesis. **In contrast**, animals, including man, get their food either directly from plants or indirectly by eating animals which have eaten plants. Plants are generally stationary. Animals, **on the other hand**, can usually move about. In external appearance, plants are usually green. They grow in a branching fashion at their extremities, and their growth continues throughout their lives.

Animals, **however**, are very diverse in their external appearance. Their growth pattern is not limited to their extremities. It is evenly distributed and only occurs in a definite time period.

Therefore, the differences between plants and animals is quite significant.

# The block paragraph

The block paragraph only discusses one topic and then finishes the paragraph with the other subject that is to be compared or contrasted with the first. Then the conclusion puts what your comparing or contrasting together.

**Note: See the next plan and example**

# Sample paragraph

What is the difference between *allopathy* and *homeopathy*?

## plan

Describe X — features 1–n	→	<b>Describe all of the features then discuss</b> <i>Feature 1</i> — describe all of the features of allopathy
Describe Y — features 1–n	→	<i>Feature 2</i> — describe all of the features of homeopathy
Describe and discuss points of similarity and/or difference.	→	<i>Summarise</i>

# Answer!

## What is the difference between *allopathy* and *homeopathy*?

Allopathy and homeopathy are quite different. Allopathy is the treatment of disease of one kind by exciting a disease of another kind or in another part. It is sometimes incorrectly used as a name for orthodox medicine or Western medicine. Homeopathy, **in contrast**, is a system of medicine based on the treatment of a given disease by administering small quantities of a drug which produces the symptoms of that disease in a healthy person.

The treatment of illnesses, then, would be markedly dissimilar because the underlying beliefs are strongly differentiated.



# Home work!

Write a paragraph about your **Life now** and **life 10 years ago?**

