



MODUL *ESSAY WRITING*
(PBI225)

MODUL SESI 6
COMPARISON AND CONTRAST ESSAY: REVIEWING

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COMPARISON AND CONTRAST ESSAY: REVIEWING

A. The Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, students are expected to be able to

1. Use connectors in the first draft of comparison and contrast essay
2. review and revise the first draft of comparison and contrast essay

B. COMPARISON AND CONTRAST: REVIEWING THE FIRST DRAFT USING SIGNAL WORDS

The example of comparison and contrast model outline.

Suppose, for example, that you want to compare two jobs. First, make a list of factors that are important to you: salary, benefits, opportunities for advancement, workplace atmosphere, commuting distance from your home, and so on. Each factor, or point of comparison, is like a subtopic in a logical division essay.

MODEL

*Point-by-Point
Organization*

I. Introduction

Thesis statement: One way to decide between two job offers is to compare them on important points.

II. Body

- A. Salary
- B. Benefits
- C. Opportunities for advancement
- D. Workplace atmosphere
- E. Commuting distance from home

III. Conclusion

MODEL

*Block
Organization*

I. Introduction

Thesis statement: One way to decide between two job offers is to compare them on important points.

II. Body

- A. Similarities
 1. Benefits
 2. Commute distance from home
- B. Differences
 1. Salary
 2. Opportunities for advancement
 3. Workplace atmosphere

III. Conclusion

Comparison and Contrast Signal Words

The second key to writing successful comparison/contrast essays is the appropriate use of comparison and contrast signal words. These are words that introduce points of comparison and points of contrast. It is not sufficient simply to describe each item that you are comparing. You must refer back and forth to, for example, Job X and Job Y and use comparison and contrast signal words to show what is the same and what is different about them. Of course, you should also use transition signals such as *first*, *second*, *one . . .*, *another . . .*, *the final . . .*, *for example*, and *in conclusion* in addition to these special ones.

The following chart lists some of the words and phrases used to discuss similarities.

Comparison Signal Words

Transition Words and Phrases	
similarly likewise	Human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery; similarly/likewise , a robot can be programmed to detect equipment malfunctions.
also	Human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery; a robot can also .
too	Human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery; a robot can too .
Subordinators	
as just as	Robots can detect malfunctions in machinery, as/just as human workers can. <i>Note:</i> Use a comma when <i>as</i> and <i>just as</i> show comparison even when the dependent clause follows the independent clause as in the above example.

Coordinators	
and	Robots and human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery.
both . . . and	Both robots and human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery.
not only . . . but also	Not only robots but also human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery.
neither . . . nor	Neither robots nor human workers are infallible. ¹
Others	
like (+ noun) just like (+ noun) similar to (+ noun)	Robots, like/just like/similar to human workers, can detect malfunctions in machinery.
(be) like (be) similar (to) (be) the same as	Robots are like/are similar to/are the same as human workers in their ability to detect malfunctions in machinery.
(be) the same	In their ability to detect malfunctions in machinery, robots and human workers are the same .
(be) alike (be) similar	Robots and human workers are alike/are similar in their ability to detect malfunctions in machinery.
to compare (to/with)	Robots can be compared to/be compared with human workers in their ability to detect malfunctions in machinery.

PRACTICE 2

*Using
Comparison
Signal Words*

A. Add comparison signal words to connect the following comparisons. The items contain both sentences and short phrases. You should write one complete new sentence for each item and use different comparison signal words in each. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. The United States has a democratic form of government. Great Britain has a democratic form of government.

The United States has a democratic form of government, just as Great Britain does.

2. The United States operates under a two-party system. Great Britain operates under a two-party system.

3. The British Parliament has two separate houses, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The United States Congress has two separate houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

4. The U.S. House of Representatives = the British House of Commons.
The U.S. Senate = the British House of Lords.

5. The members of the U.S. House of Representatives are elected by district.
The members of the British House of Commons are elected by district.

6. The method of choosing cabinet members in the United States. The method of choosing cabinet members in Great Britain. (Use the comparison signal *the same*.)

7. In Great Britain, the prime minister appoints the cabinet. The U.S. president appoints the cabinet.

8. The British monarch has the right to veto¹ any law passed by Parliament. The U.S. president has the right to veto any law passed by Congress.

Contrast Signal Words

Contrast signal words fall into two main groups according to their meaning. The words in the first group show a relationship that is called *concession*. The words in the second group show an opposition relationship.

Contrast Signal Words: Concession (Unexpected Result)

Concession signal words indicate that the information in one clause is not the result you expect from the information given in the other clause.

Although I studied all night, UNEXPECTED RESULT I failed the exam.

My failing the exam is not the result you might expect from the information in the first clause: *I studied all night*.

Look at both Contrast Clauses and Concession Clauses on pages 222–223 for additional examples of contrast subordinators.

Transition Words and Phrases	
however nevertheless nonetheless still	Millions of people go on diets every year; however/nevertheless/nonetheless/still , very few succeed in losing weight.
Subordinators	
although even though though	Although/Even though/Though most dieters initially lose a few pounds, most gain them back again within a few weeks.
Coordinators	
but yet	Doctors say that “fad” diets do not work, but/yet many people still try them.
Others	
despite (+ noun) in spite of (+ noun)	Despite/In spite of 10 years of dieting, I am still fat.

Contrast Signal Words: Direct Opposition

The second group of contrast signal words shows that two things are direct opposites. With direct opposites, the signal word can introduce either piece of information.

I am short, whereas my brother is tall. OR My brother is tall, whereas I am short.

Transition Words and Phrases	
<p>however in contrast in (by) comparison on the other hand</p>	<p>Rock music is primarily the music of white performers; however/ in contrast/in comparison/by comparison/on the other hand, jazz is performed by both white and black musicians.</p>
<p>on the contrary</p>	<p>Jazz is not just one style of music; on the contrary, jazz has many styles such as Chicago jazz, Dixieland, ragtime, swing, bebop, and cool jazz, to name just a few. <i>Note: On the contrary</i> contrasts a truth and an untruth.</p>
Subordinators	
<p>while whereas</p>	<p>New Orleans-style jazz features brass marching-band instruments, while/whereas ragtime is played on a piano. <i>Note: Use a comma with while and whereas even when the dependent clause follows the independent clause.</i></p>
Coordinators	
<p>but</p>	<p>Jazz music was born in the southern part of the United States, but it now enjoys a worldwide audience.</p>
Others	
<p>differ (from)</p>	<p>Present-day rock music differs from early rock music in several ways.</p>
<p>compared (to/with)</p>	<p>Present-day rock music has a harder sound compared to/compared with early rock.</p>
<p>(be) different (from) (be) dissimilar to</p>	<p>The punk, rap, grunge, and techno styles of today are very different from/ dissimilar to/unlike the rock music performed by Elvis Presley 50 years ago, but they have the same roots.</p>
<p>(be) unlike</p>	<p>Unlike rock, a music style started by white musicians, rhythm-and-blues styles were influenced primarily by black musicians.</p>

PRACTICE 3
Using Contrast
Signal Words

A. Add contrast signal words to connect the following items. The items contain both complete sentences and short phrases. You should write one complete new sentence for each item, and use a different contrast signal in each. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. The government of the United States/the government of Great Britain/
dissimilar in several aspects

The governments of the United States and Great Britain are dissimilar in several aspects.

2. The chief executive in Great Britain is called the prime minister. The chief executive in the United States is called the president.

3. In the United States, the president fulfills the functions of both political leader and head of state. These two functions are separate in Great Britain.

4. In other words, Great Britain has both a monarch and a prime minister. The United States has only a president.

5. The president of the United States may be of a different political party than the majority of Congress. The British prime minister is the head of the political party that has the most seats in Parliament.

6. The United States has a written constitution. Great Britain has no written constitution.

7. In the United States, elections are held on a regular schedule, no matter how popular or unpopular the government is. In Great Britain, elections are held whenever the prime minister loses a vote of confidence.

8. The members of the U.S. Senate are elected. The members of the British House of Lords are appointed or inherit their positions.

9. As you can see, the two systems of government differ in several major aspects. They are both democracies.

Exercise 3 Using connectors to compare and contrast

Rewrite the following sentences to show similarity or contrast. Choose the correct connector in parentheses to add more coherence.

1. Lemons are yellow. Limes are green. (unlike / similarly)

2. Many families can live in an apartment building. Only one or two families usually live in a house. (on the one hand ... on the other hand / like)

3. A frog can live in water or on land. A fish cannot. (like / unlike)

4. A parrot can fly. An ostrich cannot. (similarly / in contrast)

Exercise 4 Filling in connectors

Complete the paragraph. Write *like, similarly, on the one hand ... on the other hand, or in contrast* in the blanks.

The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, and the Statue of Liberty in New York City may seem to be very different structures. However, they have many similarities. _____¹ the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty was designed by a French architect. _____², the Statue of Liberty and Eiffel Tower both represented great advancements in metalwork. The Eiffel Tower, however, is taller than the Statue of Liberty. The Eiffel Tower measures 986 feet. _____³, the Statue of Liberty is only 305 feet from the water to the top of her torch. _____⁴ you have the elegant black frame and sharp point of the Eiffel Tower, and _____⁵ you have the long, flowing robes and lifelike torch of the Statue of Liberty. Both monuments are equally beautiful.

REVIEWING AND REVISING

Review your first draft essay. Exchange with your partner to do peer editing. Use the following checklist to review your first draft.

Exercise 6 Peer editing a first draft

After you write your first draft, exchange it with a partner. Answer the questions on the checklist below. You may also write comments or questions on your partner's draft. Then read your partner's comments on your first draft, and revise it as necessary.

Editor's Checklist

Put a check (✓) as appropriate.

- 1. Does your thesis statement compare two subjects?
- 2. Does one body paragraph focus on comparison and one on contrast?
- 3. Does each body paragraph have a clear topic sentence?
- 4. Does each topic sentence state the point of comparison or contrast?
- 5. Does each body paragraph contain details to support the comparison or contrast?
- 6. Did you use connectors to add coherence?

REFERENCES

- Oshima, A & Hogue, A. (2006). *Writing Academic English*. 4th edition. Pearson Longman
- Savage, A & Mayer, P. 2005. *Effective Academic Writing 2: the Short Essay*. Oxford: Oxford University Press