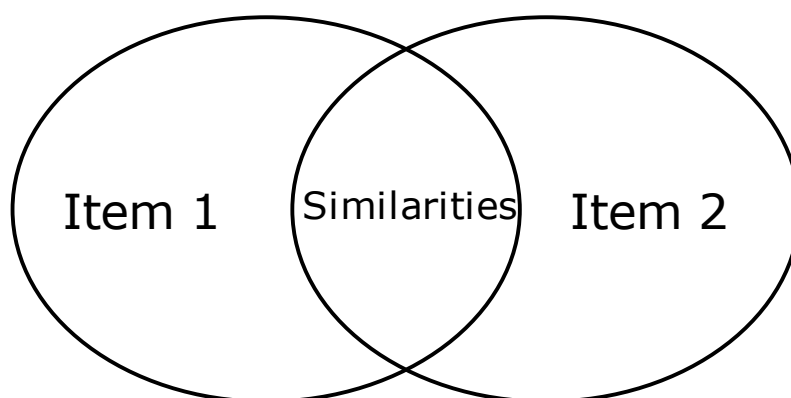


Guide To Compare and Contrast Essays

Compare and contrast essays are particularly common in TOEFL exams, universities and higher levels of school.

How to Brainstorm a Compare and Contrast Essay

The most efficient way to brainstorm Compare and contrast essays is to put the similarities in the middle and differences to either side. This gives you a clear idea of how much they have in common and how much difference there is.



Introduction

An introduction should include two or three sentences of background information and a Thesis statement. A Thesis statement can be:

- Which you think is better
Many people believe that Pepsi is better than Coca Cola.
- How similar they are to each other
There are relatively few differences between Pepsi and Coca Cola.
- How different they are.
There are many differences between Pepsi and Coca Cola.

Choosing a Main Body Structure

There are three main ways to organize your essay:

	Separate similarities and differences	Subject by Subject Organization	Criteria organization (Point by point)
Type of Essay:	What they have in common and then differences	1 st one subject and then the other.	Discuss it point by point. The most important points come first
No. of similarities & differences	About the same of each	Generally more differences than similarities.	Does not matter. (If there a lot of similarities, group them together in an initial paragraph.)
Useful When:	There is little need to give background on the subject.	Want to discuss individual subjects in more detail. Often used when readers are familiar with one subject and not the other.	Used a lot in decision making to clearly highlight important factors.
Example London Vs Sydney	<p>Similarities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English speaking ● Train network ● Buses ● Parks ● Zoo <p>Differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weather ● Attractions ● Beaches 	<p>London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English speaking ● Train network ● Buses ● Parks ● Zoo ● Weather ● Attractions <p>Sydney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English speaking ● Train network ● Buses ● Parks ● Zoo ● Weather ● Attractions ● Beaches 	<p>Point By Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English speaking ● Train network ● Buses ● Parks ● Zoo ● Weather ● Attractions ● Beaches

Concluding Your assignment

Once you have analyzed the key points either conclude by choosing the better alternative, highlight the differences or state that they are very similar.

Key Vocabulary

Similarities	Differences
in the same way	different from
like	in contrast to
both	compared with
and	unlike
in addition	but
	on the one hand... ...on the other hand
likewise	conversely
similarly	in contrast
	however

Teacher's Notes

Vocabulary Teaching Ideas

- The Vocabulary can be cut up for use in a matching exercise
- You could put the ideas in a hat and each student has to make a sentence using the vocabulary given.

Brainstorming

It is useful to encourage students to use the brainstorming tool given. It is often called a Venn Diagram and is designed specifically for this kind of exercise.

Different Types of Compare and Contrast Essay

There are a number of different names for the types of organization including:

- Block Layout – Subject by subject organization although some people would also include Separate Compare and contrast in this group.
- Essays that focus on similarities or contrasts – One might argue that those essays should be called similarity essays or contrasting essays.

Guided Example Essays

There are a number of example compare and contrast essays on the site [jamesabela.co.uk](http://www.jamesabela.co.uk) including: TV Vs Books and comparative reviews. Both can be found at: <http://www.jamesabela.co.uk/intermediate/Writing/>