*EnglishDepartment Teacher: Aiouni Laila first year Groups Written Expression S2*

***Comparison / Contrast Paragraphs***

In this unit, you will learn about ...

* comparison / contrast paragraphs and reasons for writing them.
* how to organize comparison / contrast paragraphs.
* connecting words used for comparing and contrasting topics.
* how to write about the advantages and disadvantages of a topic.

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

1. • Compare: Finding how two or more things are alike. **Clue words that tell how things are alike;** same, like, both, alike, still, likewise, in the same ways, in comparisons, at the same time, in the same manner, and similar.
2. Contrast: Finding how things are different. **Clue words that tell how things are different;** but, unlike, different, however, on the other hand, but, yet, nevertheless, conversely, rather, on the contrary, nonetheless, and whereas. People, places, objects, and events can all be compared and contrasted. **Comparing and contrasting text is one of the most challenging critical reading skills to acquire because it requires evaluating and synthesizing.**

***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 up in a small town.*

similarly *There are many parks to visit in that city.* Similarly, *there are*

*several parks in my hometown, too.*

**3 Complete these sentences with phrases from above.**

1. The architecture of some modem government buildings is …. the type of  
   construction used hundreds of years ago.
2. In recent years, new technology such as mobile telephones has made life more convenient. , the Internet has made a wide variety of information available to everyone.
3. the rivers ….the lakes are clear and beautiful.
4. The capital city is just modern the cities in many other countries.

**Using contrastive structures:** These words and phrases are used for writing contrasts:

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

**Complete these sentences with phrases from above.**

1. Some tourists enjoy going on organised tours, many other tourists prefer  
   travelling on their own.
2. The two books are very each other.
3. The cost of studying in a college or university in Britain is very high. ,  
   in many other countries, the cost is mach lower.

Changes in technology are occurring quickly in thepast.

**Similarities and differences:**

*Reading a story in a book is often very different from seeing it as a film. when you read a story, you need to use your imagination. A book usually gives a lot of description about the people, places, and things in the story, so you can create pictures in your mind In addition, the conversations between people are always written with details that describe how the people look or feel while they are talking. When you read, you use a lot of imagination to help 'see' the characters in the story. However, when you see a film,* it *is a different experience. when you watch a film, you don't need to use your imagination. The pictures on the screen give all the details about the people, places, and things in the story. The conversations are spoken out loud so you just listen and watch. The feelings of the people came through their faces, body movements, and voices. Although a book and a film might tell the same story, reading a book and watching a film are very different experiences.*

***Comparison / contrast organisation***

**D Two methods for organising 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. To explain, To use the block method, discuss all the features of subject 1. Then discuss all the features of subject 2**

**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**

Create a graphic organizer or Venn diagram : the topics A and B look for the things that distinct the topic A and that topic B doesn’t have ( for differences). Make sure you complete it before you write your paragraph.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Method 2: Point-by-point organisation**  Compare or contrast one point about the two topics, then a second point then a third .this method is outlined like this:  second point, then a third point,  and so on. This type of  organisation could be outlined  like this: | | | | |  |  |  |
| Marilyn *Monroe* and Princess Diana lived at different times in different countries, but their lives had some surprising similarities. First of all, both women had a difficult childhood. *Monroe* spent many years without parents in an orphanage, and Diana's mother left the family when she was only six. Later in their lives, both *women married* famous *men.* Princess Diana married Prince Charles, and Marilyn Monroe married a famous basel2all player and later a famous writer. They also had difficult marriages and eventually separated from their husbands. Another similarity *between* Marilyn *Monroe* and Princess Diana was that they *were* both very popular. Diana was called The *people's* princess' because she was 50 friendly. Although *Monroe* was famously sexy, she was well-liked *because* she Seemed very innocent. *However,* although they both *seemed to* have very happy lives, both *women* actually had emotional problems and often felt sad and *depressed. Monroe* went through serious depression and had to go to a hospital for treatment. Likewise, Diana suffered from an eating problem and was depressed during parts of her marriage. A last similarity *between* Marilyn *Monroe* and Princess Diana was their deaths at an early age. In fact, they *were* both thirty-six years old when they lied, *Monroe* in 1962 and Diana in 1997. *Maybe* their similar life circumstances and lifestyles explain why Princess Diana and Marilyn *Monroe* also had similar personalities. |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | _Pic381 |  |

from an eating problem and was depressed during parts of her marriage. A last similarity *between* Marilyn *Monroe* and Princess Diana was their deaths at an early age. In fact, they *were* both thirty-six years old when they lied, *Monroe* in 1962 and Diana in 1997. *Maybe* their similar life circumstances

and lifestyles explain why Princess Diana and Marilyn *Monroe* also had similar personalities.

To use the **point-by-point method**, choose a feature and show how it applies to subject 1. Then show how each feature applies to subject 2.

|  |
| --- |
| **6 Read the two paragraphs above then answer the questions.**   1. Which paragraph mostly compares and which mostly contrasts? 2. Finish filling in the outlines on page 46 for each paragraph. 3. Nnn   Blockb  bb |
|

**Block organization: paragraph 1**

**Topic sentence: reading a story in a book is very different from seeing it as a film.**

**Topic A: reading a book.**

**Supporting points:**

**1………………………………**

**2……………………………..**

**Topic B:**

**Supporting points:**

**1…………………………….**

**2……………………………..**

**Point-by-point organisation: Paragraph 2**

Topic sentence: Marilyn Monroe and Princess Diana lived at different times in different countries, but their lives had some surprising similarities.

First point of comparison—difficult childhood

Al:   
Bl: Princess Diana—mother left family

Second point of comparison‑

A2: Princess Diana—married Prince Charles, later separated from him

B2:

Third point of comparison‑

A3:

B3:

Fourth point of comparison—had emotional problems

A4: Marilyn Monroe—



Fifth point of comparison‑

A5 :………………………

B5 :……………………

***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 organise the paragraph in either point-by-point or block style.

Read this paragraph from a school newspaper. List the supporting points. Does the paragraph discuss advantages or disadvantages?

Studying abroad and studying in your own country both have definite benefits for a student. Living in another country can be an exciting experience because everything seems new and different. The challenge of living in a new environment can give you courage and self‑ confidence, too. If you want to learn another language, living abroad is a great way to do that because you can read magazines or newspapers, watch television programmes, or make friends with people who are native speakers. Another good reason to live abroad is to learn more about another culture. On the other hand, there are also advantages to

staying in your own country to study. It is cheaper than living abroad, so you can save more money. Also, in your home country, everything is familiar. You don't need to worry about being taught in a foreign language, and you can understand the culture and the expectation of teachers . finally, if you stay in your own country. You can be close to your family and friends. Hence, if you are thinking where to study, consider all of these benefits and make a decision that is right for you.

Review: list five words of comparison and five for contrast .use them to compare and contrast two things at your university.

Write one or two paragraphs comparing or contrasting topics of your choice or one of these.

* action films / romantic films
* the advantages and disadvantages of living abroad
* living in a small town / living in a big City
* doing sport / watching sport on TV

the advantages and disadvantages of having a job while at university