

Comparing and Contrasting in English

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Annotation: Comparison is a trope in which one object or phenomenon is likened to another according to some feature common to them. The purpose of comparison is to reveal new, important properties that are advantageous for the subject of the statement in the object of comparison.

Keywords: comparison words, phrases, conjunctions, connectors.

Imagine that you are taking part in a discussion on concepts. It's not idle chatter. It's a conversation about your opinions on something significant, such as your beliefs, politics, who you believe is more qualified for a job, etc. You can effectively communicate your views by using the appropriate grammar rules and phrases. Understanding how to compare and contrast is a very helpful skill for making your point in an engaging manner.

Comparison Words and Short Phrases

The following expressions that contrast two things or viewpoints are:

like

likewise

equal to

in addition

In addition

Here is a little passage that makes use of several of these words: time is a finite resource, just like money. You don't have enough money to buy everything you want, and you also don't have enough hours in the day to get everything done. Our time is finite, just like our resources are. Time is a resource that can be used when work needs to be done.

Short Phrases and Words That Contrast. The following expressions that contrast two things or concepts are:

unlike

as opposed to

in contrast to

distinct from

whereas

Here is a brief passage that contrasts using some of these expressions:

desire is an endless resource, unlike time or money. Think about it: Your hunger for new experiences and ideas will always be there, unlike money, which can run out. While there is never enough time to complete tasks. While there will never be enough time to do everything you want, your desire will always produce something new and exciting. Forms for Comparing Ideas The comparative form is the most important to use when comparing two ideasⁱ. Use the superlative form for three or more ideas.

Formal Comparison

The comparative form is used in these sentences to discuss ideas about the difficult economy: at this point in time, employment concerns outweigh political concernsⁱⁱ. Job training is more important than food stamps and other welfare programs for long-term well-being. Politicians are more concerned with reelection than with actually improving the economy.

As ... as

The use of "as... as" is a related form to the comparative. The positive form indicates that something is equal. When using "as... as," however, do not modify the adjective as in the comparative form. Manufacturing job losses are as unfortunate as pay cutsⁱⁱⁱ. My state spends as much on education as some foreign countries, such as Korea. Something is not equal in the negative form. It's not as simple as you think. The reduction in output is not as severe as in the past.

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Superlative form

These sentences use the superlative form to express what someone believes to be the most important aspect of university success:

the most important factor in university success is dedication.

the most rewarding aspect of my university experience was broadening my mind to new perspectives.

Conjunctions and Connectors

To contrast positive and negative aspects, use these subordinating conjunctions, connecting words, and prepositions.

Though, Although, Even Though^{iv}

Although the initial cost will be high, we will eventually profit from the time spent.

It's important to remember that time is money even though many believe that money is more important.

However, Nonetheless

We need to improve the local infrastructure. However, we must also respect nature.

The government should invest in job training programs. Nonetheless, that would be expensive.

Despite, In Spite Of

Despite the difficulty, students will soon see the benefit of this topic of study.

The situation will improve in spite of the economy.

Practice Situations

Use these suggestions with a partner to practice comparing and contrasting ideas, events, and people. When practicing, make an effort to avoid using the same phrase over and over. You could try the following topics for practice:

discuss your country's economic situation;

discuss the positive and negative aspects of a politician or political party;

compare and contrast two different school courses; and, consider both sides of an important decision, such as an investment or a career change.

References

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4. <https://www.thoughtco.com/comparing-and-contrasting-in-english-1212049>.

ⁱ Usmanov F. Mythological and folklore characters in the linguistic picture of the world: through uzbek similes // The European Science Review. -№6. 2018.

ⁱⁱ IZ Zokirovna, Expressing Value by Suprasegmental elements in English and uzbek languages, Spanish journal of innovation and integrity 5, 181-185, 2022

ⁱⁱⁱ ZT Mukumovna, Approaches to defining the structure of the concept in linguistics, Mental Enlightenment Scientific-methodological Journal 1(#4), 241-252, 2022.

^{iv} <https://www.thoughtco.com/comparing-and-contrasting-in-english-1212049>.