Academic Word List- Comparing and Contrasting
Worksheet 1 – Comparing and contrasting phrases presentation

Complete these phrases for comparing and contrasting. There are several possible answers for each.

They are ___________________________________________ the same
They are ___________________________________________ identical
They are ___________________________________________ similar
They are ___________________________________________ different
A is ___________________________________________… er/ more…than B
A is ___________________________________________ as… as B
The ___________________________________________ difference between A and B is…
A/ An ___________________________________________ difference between A and B is…

Use words and phrases under the fold to help you with task above. Some can be used more than once.

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... percent  a great deal  
a (tiny) bit  a lot
almost  absolutely
biggest  basically
considerably  completely
fairly  exactly
great  (far) far
half  
much  most important
more or less  most significant
most obvious  (not/ very) nearly
much  obvious
one and a half times  only/ sole
practically  quite a lot
slightly  substantially
surprisingly  three quarters
totally  twice
very  

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Mixed up answers

Match the lists of words below to the gapped sentences on the previous page.

A) a tiny bit/ a bit/ slightly/ ... percent/ quite a lot/ considerably/ substantially/ a great deal/ a lot/ much/ far/ ... times/ far far

B) almost/ absolutely

C) almost/ more or less/ nearly/ very nearly/ basically/ exactly

D) biggest/ most important/ most significant/ most obvious/ only/ sole

E) great/ obvious

F) not nearly/ half/ three quarters/ not quite/ nearly/ almost/ exactly/ one and a half times/ twice/ three times

G) slightly/ quite/ fairly/ very/ completely/ totally

H) very/ quite/ surprisingly

Compare with the answer key under the fold. Do any of the expressions have (basically) the same meaning?

Suggested answers

• They are _______almost/ more or less/ practically/ nearly/ very nearly/ basically/ exactly _______ the same

• They are __________almost/ absolutely __________________________ identical

• They are __________________________ very/ quite/ surprisingly ______________ similar

• They are __________ly slightly/ quite/ very/ completely/ totally _______ different

• A is _______ a tiny bit/ a bit/ slightly/ ... percent/ quite a lot/ considerably/ substantially/ a great deal/ a lot/ much/ far/ ... times/ far far _______ ...er/ more.../ less... than B

• A is _______ not nearly/ half/ three quarters/ not quite/ nearly/ almost/ exactly/ one and a half times/ twice/ three times _______ as... as B.

• The ________________ biggest/ most important/ most significant/ most obvious/ only/ sole ____________ difference between A and B is...

• A/ An _____________ great/ obvious ______________ difference between A and B is...
Worksheet 2 – Comparing and contrasting places

Compare one of these things in your country/city and other places, supporting your arguments. Your partner will agree or disagree, or if they don’t know the other place they will just ask for more support for your arguments.

- Acceptance of differences in sexuality
- Belief in personal transformation
- Bullying subordinates
- Carbon offsetting
- Corporate restructuring
- Electricity generation
- Government use of statistics
- Granting sabbaticals
- Immigration
- Importance of hierarchy
- Infrastructure
- Interest in sustainability
- Job security
- Maintaining traditions
- Naming of successors
- Number of guidelines from the government
- Number of subsidiaries
- Publication of theses
- Research funding
- Residential care
- Restoration of historical buildings
- Rigid management
- School resources
- Self-sufficiency of adult children
- Stress
- Strictness of school grading
- Submissive females
- Suspension from school
- Taking dietary supplements
- Tax revenues
- Teaching of study techniques
- Temporary jobs
- The baby boomer generation
- The impact of globalisation
- The IT sector
- Theoretical physics
- Times when you need to use identification
- Transmission of disease
- Treatment of historic sites
- Use of panel interviews
- Volunteering
- Welfare payments

All the words in italics above are from the AWL. Ask about any you don’t know.

Worksheet 3 – Comparing and contrasting Academic Word List vocabulary
How different are the following words from the Academic Word List and the words next to them and what are the differences if there are any? Work together to write two sentences saying those things, e.g. “A majority is almost the same as ‘most’. The biggest difference is that majority can also mean anything over 50%”

A generation/ An era
A medium/ Media
A perspective/ A viewpoint
An image/ An icon
An instructor/ A teacher
Banned/ Prohibited
Exactly/ Precisely
Habits/ Norms
Ignorance/ Stupidity
Index/ Contents page
Inhibit/ Restrict
Innovator/ Inventor
Integrate/ Merge
Irrational/ Illogical
Labourer/ Worker
Legislator/ Lawyer
Manipulate/ Control
Mechanism/ Machine
Minimalise/ Reduce
Minor/ Unimportant
Objectivity/ Logic
Paragraph/ Section
Preliminary/ Preparatory
Private investigator/ Private detective
Psychiatry/ Psychology
Regime/ Government
Spouse/ Partner
The same/ Identical
To itemise/ To list
Unjustified/ Unjust

A majority/ Most
A parallel/ A similarity
An illustration/ A figure
An institute/ An academy
At short intervals/ For a short time
Conservative/ Reactionary
For Instance/ For example
Identification/ ID
Immaturity/ Childishness
Individualism/ Selfishness
Initially/ At first
Insightful/ Intuitive
Internalise/ Remember
Isolation/ Loneliness
Legislation/ Law
Magazine/ Journal
Manual/ Handbook
Mediate/ Negotiate
Ministry/ Government department
Misinterpretation/ Misunderstanding
Odd/ Abnormal
Predicted/ Inevitable
Principal/ Principle
Professor/ Lecturer
Purchase/ Buy
Ratio/ Percentage
Relocate/ Move
Stubborn/ Persistent
Theory/ Paradigm
Uninvolved/ Disinterested

Homework
Choose one of the tasks below and write at least 250 words on the topic of your choice. If you run out of things to say at fewer than 200 words, choose another and continue.
- Compare the past, present and future of one thing
● Compare two things
● Compare two solutions to one problem
● Compare competing theories (e.g. for why something happens)
● Compare different predictions for the future of something
● Compare different future possibilities depending on what action is taken