



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.

... percent
a great deal
a (tiny) bit
almost
biggest
considerably
fairly
great
more or less
most obvious
much
(not) quite
one and a half times
practically
slightly
surprisingly
totally
very

... times
a lot
absolutely
basically
completely
exactly
(far) far
half
most important
most significant
(not/ very) nearly
obvious
only/ sole
quite a lot
substantially
three quarters
twice



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 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 majority/ Most |
| A medium/ Media | A parallel/ A similarity |
| A perspective/ A viewpoint | An illustration/ A figure |
| An image/ An icon | An institute/ An academy |
| An instructor/ A teacher | At short intervals/ For a short time |
| Banned/ Prohibited | Conservative/ Reactionary |
| Exactly/ Precisely | For Instance/ For example |
| Habits/ Norms | Identification/ ID |
| Ignorance/ Stupidity | Immaturity/ Childishness |
| Index/ Contents page | Individualism/ Selfishness |
| Inhibit/ Restrict | Initially/ At first |
| Innovator/ Inventor | Insightful/ Intuitive |
| Integrate/ Merge | Internalise/ Remember |
| Irrational/ Illogical | Isolation/ Loneliness |
| Labourer/ Worker | Legislation/ Law |
| Legislator/ Lawyer | Magazine/ Journal |
| Manipulate/ Control | Manual/ Handbook |
| Mechanism/ Machine | Mediate/ Negotiate |
| Minimalise/ Reduce | Ministry/ Government department |
| Minor/ Unimportant | Misinterpretation/ Misunderstanding |
| Objectivity/ Logic | Odd/ Abnormal |
| Paragraph/ Section | Predicted/ Inevitable |
| Preliminary/ Preparatory | Principal/ Principle |
| Private investigator/ Private detective | Professor/ Lecturer |
| Psychiatry/ Psychology | Purchase/ Buy |
| Qualitative/ Quantitative | Ratio/ Percentage |
| Regime/ Government | Relocate/ Move |
| Spouse/ Partner | Stubborn/ Persistent |
| The same/ Identical | Theory/ Paradigm |
| To itemise/ To list | Uninvolved/ Disinterested |
| Unjustified/ Unjust | |

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