

Exercises for Tutorial 27. Comparing and Contrasting

Exercise 1

Instructions: Choose *one* topic from the bulleted list below (or in the space provided write a topic you find more interesting). *Copy/paste or type or write your chosen topic in the answer box.*

NOTE: Try to pick a topic you think might be genuinely interesting, one that you really have something to say about. You're going to be stuck with it for most of the exercises in this tutorial!

- the person you are today and the person you would like to be in the future
- two different movies you have seen recently (two you liked equally or one you liked and one you did not)
- high school and college
- your own favorite type of music and another kind of music that you don't like
- your favorite school subject and your least favorite or two that you like or dislike equally
- an ideal job—the best one you can imagine for yourself—and your current job
- your first impression of someone or something and what you thought later on a second or third impression
- two sports teams or two athletes in the same sport
- a traditional practice valued by your family and your own different practice
- two different cultures you have lived in or know a lot about
- two different college majors you have considered or are considering
- two different purchases you have considered (for example, a small car versus an SUV)
- two different political or religious beliefs you find compelling

Topic:

Instructions: Now create a brainstorming list similar to Geneva's in the lesson example. In the A and B boxes, fill in the two items in the topic you have chosen. Keep in mind that you should think of both similarities and differences between the two topics. In the space below A and B try to come up with at least ten points including both similarities and differences between the two items. *Type or write in the answer boxes.*

| | |
|----------|----------|
| A | B |
| | |

Exercise 2

Instructions: In the space below, organize your own lists from above by listing the similarities under one heading and the differences under another. *Copy/paste or type or write in the answer boxes.*

Similarities between the two items:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Differences between the two items:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Exercise 3

Instructions: Using the lists of information you have already written out, try to create new categories of your own for organizing. Your categories may include some overlapping items (as Geneva’s example includes “strict teachers” in more than one category). Create at least three categories and list the relevant items under each heading. *Type or write your category heading and items in the answer boxes.*

Category One and Items:

Category Two and Items:

Category Three and Items:

Exercise 4

Instructions: Using your own information from the previous exercises, create a parallel outline like the models in the lesson. Include at least four items for each topic and make sure that the items under each topic are parallel (that is, the compare and contrast the same general information, as in the examples). *Type or write in the answer boxes.*

Introduction: write here what you will explain in the intro:

Topic A (and numbered items below):

Topic B (and numbered items below):

Conclusion: write here, briefly, how you will conclude:

Exercise 5

Instructions: Organize your information into a point-by-point outline. Try to include at least four points using the following structure:

- Introduction: Provides background information and presents a thesis statement about the topics being discussed
- One quality of both A and B
- A second quality of both A and B
- A third quality of both A and B
- A fourth quality of both A and B
and so on, depending on the information
- Conclusion: Sums up the major issue or makes a recommendation based on the information provided.

Type or write your outline in the answer box.

Exercise 6

Instructions: Organize your information into an outline focusing on similarities and differences. Try to come up with at least four similarities and four differences using the following structure:

- Introduction: Provides background information and presents a thesis statement about the topics being discussed
- Section on similarities between A and B
- Section on differences between A and B
- Conclusion: Sums up the major issue or makes a recommendation based on the information provided.

Type or write your outline in the answer box.

Exercise 7

Instructions: Using the previous list of words and phrases, create sentences for each pair of items below by joining those in column A to those in column B. As an example, number one has been completed for you.
Type, write, or copy-paste and revise in each answer box.

Column A

Column B

1. circus clowns don't make much money
(show differences)

corporate executives are well paid

While circus clowns don't make much money, corporate executives are well paid.

2. computer programmers work long hours
(show similarities)

clowns work long hours

3. circus clowns work with people and animals
(show differences)

zookeepers work only with animals

4. doctors have huge responsibilities
(show differences)

circus clowns take long vacations

5. librarians have to be quiet
(show differences)

clowns have to be noisy

6. movie stars sign autographs
(show similarities)

clowns sign autographs

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7. secretaries wear comfortable shoes clowns' shoes don't fit
(show differences)

8. nightclub bouncers have to be tough clowns have to be funny
(show differences)

9. clowns get laughed at college professors get laughed at
(show similarities)

10. clowns live in fabulous mansions anthropologists live in grass huts
(show differences)