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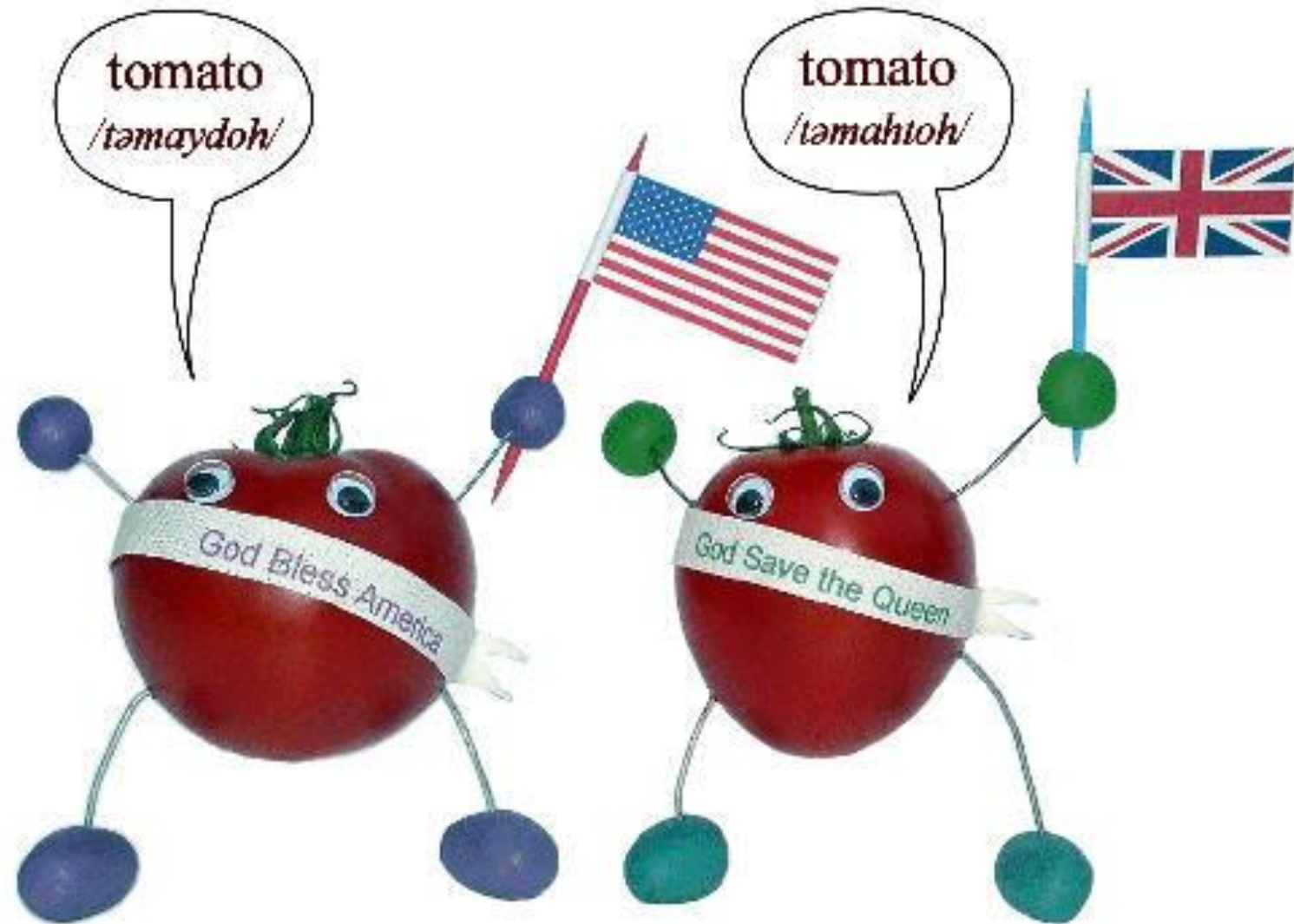
COMPARISON / CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

L2 Written Expression
Group: 8
Teacher: Ms. Ghennai

What are the similarities and differences between British tomato and American tomato?



This isn't an agriculture lesson. Simply, they are written similarly and pronounced differently.



In this lesson you will learn:

- What comparison and contrast are.
- What comparison/ contrast paragraph is.
- The organization of comparison/ contrast paragraph.
- Transition words in comparison/ contrast paragraph.

WHAT IS A COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH?

Comparison and contrast is a method of showing similarities and differences between subjects (people, ideas, situations, items, ...etc.) . Comparison is concerned with organizing and developing points of similarity, whereas contrast serves the function of organizing and developing points of differences. This method of writing aims at informing the reader of the qualities of the subjects discussed or at persuading the reader to make a decision about them.

Compare = Similarities

Contrast = Differences

*In everyday conversation, people often use the word *compare* to mean either compare or contrast.

THE ORGANIZATION OF COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

Read Paragraph (1) and do the following tasks

- Write down the topic sentences.

.....
.....

- Mention the subjects of the comparison/ contrast.

.....

- check (✓) the main point of the paragraph

Comparison

Contrast

Both, comparison and contrast

- Underline the point of the paragraph in the topic sentence.

.....
.....

Paragraph (1)

When listening to a conversation between an American and an Englishman, a person will become aware that despite their similarities, there are significant differences between these two varieties of the English language. While the Englishman does not pronounce 'r' sound before a consonant sound or at the end of a word, the American does. This might lead to a rather humorous misunderstanding, when asked by the American what his job was, the Englishman answered that he was a clerk (pronounced clock to the American ear). Failure to use the r sound at the end of a word might also lead to confusion between words like paw and pour. A noticeable difference exists between the basic words used to express the same thing. The American might want to know the price of gas in London, but the Englishman will answer him by using the word petrol. Unlike the American, who wears an undershirt when the weather is cold, the Englishman wears a vest. The American wants to know where the elevator is, while the Englishman asks for the location of the lift. The similarities found in these hypothetical conversations, however, will far outweigh the differences. The meanings of most words are, of course, the same. The pronunciation of the consonant sounds, the rhythm, stress, and intonation systems in both American and British English closely resemble each other. In grammar, the similarities are numerous. British English makes a distinction between count and mass nouns, and so does American English. They both have the same verb and tense systems. The grammar of both languages is similar in that they both form compare adjectives and adverbs in the same way. In fact, the similarities between the two these two forms of the same language are such that there is rarely any serious breakdown in communication between an American speaker and a British one.

Reread Paragraph (1) and complete the following table.

	American English	British English
Differences	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
Similarities	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	

THE ORGANIZATION OF COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

The Topic Sentence

In the topic sentence, the writer names the subjects (A and B) and announces the focus on contrast and/or comparison, that is the main point the writer wants to make about the subjects.

Subjects + Main point = Topic sentence

Example 1: *My two sons have completely different personalities.*

[Purpose: to help readers understand the sons' personalities and how they differ]

Example 2: *The Vietnam and Iraq wars have several significant similarities.*

[Purpose: to demonstrate understanding of the wars and their similarities]

Example 3: *Despite their similarities, there are significant differences between American English and British English*

[Purpose: to help readers understand the similarities and differences between American English and British English]

THE ORGANIZATION OF COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

Supporting sentences

The support demonstrates the main point by of the paragraph showing how subjects are the same or different. It can be organized in two ways:

A point-by-point organization

It presents one point of comparison or contrast between the subjects and then moves to the next point. That is, it compares/ contrasts one point about the two topics, then a second point, then a third point and so on.

A block organization

It presents all the points of comparison or contrast for one subject and then all the points for the next subject. That is, it presents all the supporting points of the first topic, then compares/contrasts these same points to the second topic.

Concluding sentence

A restatement of the topic sentence. It could refer back to the main point of the paragraph and the subjects, and/ or it makes a comment or expresses a personal opinion about the subjects.

THE ORGANIZATION OF COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

Read Paragraph (2) and do the following tasks.

- Mention the subjects of the comparison/ contrast.

.....

- Check (✓) the main point of the paragraph

Comparison

Contrast

Both; comparison and contrast

- Complete the outline about Paragraph (2).

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

Subject A: Reading a story in a book.

Supporting points for subject A: 1-

2-.....

Subject B:

Supporting points for subject B: 1-

2-.....

- Check (✓) the support organization of the paragraph

Point-by- point organization

block organization

Paragraph (2)

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 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.

THE ORGANIZATION OF COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

Read Paragraph (3) and do the following tasks.

- Check (✓) the main point of the paragraph

Comparison

Contrast

Both, comparison and contrast

- Complete the outline about Paragraph (2).

Topic sentence:

Subject A:

Subject B:

First point of comparison:

A1:

B1:

Second point of comparison:

A2:

B2:

THE ORGANIZATION OF COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

Paragraph (3) tasks follow-up

Third point of comparison:

A3:

B3:

Fourth point of comparison:

A4:

B:4

- Check (✓) the support organization of the paragraph
 Point-by- point organization block organization

Paragraph (3)

When I go to university, my parents want me to live with a host family in the city, but I want to live in a shared flat in a hall of residence on the campus. When you live with a family, you usually have to fit in with their timetable . On the other hand , when you live in a flat in hall you can do what you want when you want . Another difference is that with a family, you don't have to cook . In a flat in hall , of course , you have to cook for yourself ! That would be good for me because I like cooking . My parents have pointed out that all the food is included in the price when you live with a family , but you have to pay extra for this in the hall . Plus, there could be complications about sharing the kitchen if everyone wants to cook at the same time . However , when you live in a flat in a hall , you get to choose what you eat and when you eat it. I think they're both good places to live , but a flat in a hall would be better .

TRANSITION IN COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

Consider using the following transitional words to improve coherence by connecting ideas with ideas or sentences with sentences

Comparison:

in the same way, similarly, likewise, also, by comparison, in a like manner, as, with, as though, both, like, just as, one similarity/another similarity, etc.

Contrast:

but, by contrast, in contrast, despite, however, instead, nevertheless, on (to) the contrary, in spite of, still, yet, unlike, even so, rather than, otherwise, while, whereas, one difference /another difference, etc.

TRANSITION IN COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

Some comparative structures

and
both
both ... and
also

*The man **and** the woman are tall.*
***Both** of the tables have broken legs.*
***Both** my neighbour **and** I are selling our cars.*
*The shops are closing for the bank holiday. The post office is **also** closing.*

too
neither ... nor
similar to
the same as

*Kathy is planning to go to the party, and I am, **too**.*
***Neither** Joe **nor** Steve went to the meeting last night.*
*Their new computer is **similar to** the one my brother bought.*
*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.*

TRANSITION IN COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

Some contrastive structures

more / less + adjective / adverb + than *Eating out is usually **more expensive than** cooking at home.*

adjective + er + than *My bedroom is **bigger than** my sister's room.*

but, while, though *I enjoy eating fruit for dessert, **but / while / though** my friend likes chocolate.*

not the same as *This book **isn't the same as** the one you bought.*

not as ... as *Some people feel that doing exercise **isn't as fun as** watching TV.*

different from *That style of shirt is **different from** the styles most people wear.*

in contrast *The lakes we swam in were very clean and beautiful. **In contrast**, the lakes in my country are polluted.*

however *The new shop sells its clothing at low prices. **However**, other shops have better quality clothing.*

on the other hand *My boyfriend likes doing sport. **On the other hand**, I prefer doing yoga.*

TRANSITION IN COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH



Read Paragraph (4) and complete it with the appropriate transition words.

Paragraph (4)

Superman and Batman are heroes, but only one is truly a superhero, and taking into account their upbringing, motives, and criminal targets, that is Batman. Upbringing was not gentle for either. Superman came from Krypton, a planet that was about to self-destruct. His parents sent him as a baby on a spaceship to Earth. There he would be adopted by an ordinary farm family. His adoptive parents named him Clark Kent and reared him well. In the same generation, far away in Gotham, Bruce Wayne, the future Batman, was born to a contented, wealthy family. Tragically, his parents were killed in his presence during a mugging. He inherited the family wealth and was raised by his kindly butler. Those very different backgrounds provided Superman and Batman with powerful but different motives for fighting crime. Superman was programmed in his space capsule to know about the forces of good and evil on Earth and to fight the bad people. Superman, Batman learned from experience. have gone on to fight many bad people, each one has a special enemy. For Superman, it is Lex Luthor, who has studied Superman and knows all about him, even his outstanding weakness—the mineral Kryptonite. For Batman, it is the Joker, who, as a wicked teenager, was the mugger-murderer of his parents. Many spectacular battles have ensued for both crime fighters, and one has reached the top in his profession. Superman offers overwhelming physical strength against crime. Batman displays cunning and base passion. Most people would cheer Superman on. However, they would identify more with Batman, and he is my superhero.

TIPS ON PLANNING A COMPARISON/ CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

1. Select the subjects with a purpose and audience in mind. What is the aim of the comparison/ contrast? Are you trying to help the reader understand the subjects or persuade the reader that one subject is preferable to the other?
2. Try to compare/contrast two things that share a basis for comparison and not unrelated things: two teachers, two cars, two players, two air conditioners, etc.
3. List similarities and differences in your subjects, making sure you discuss the same topics for subject A and subject B. A comparison that does not discuss the same elements for both subjects (A and B) would confuse the reader.
4. Decide if your subjects share more similarities or differences. You will want to emphasize either similarities or differences so that you leave a clear impression with your reader. A comparison that evenly balances the similarities and differences in two subjects or a comparison that balances positive and negative elements of two subjects can confuse the reader. . For example, if you are contrasting two teachers and you include an equal number of similarities and differences, the reader may wonder if the teachers are more alike or more different. If you include both positive and negative qualities of each teacher, the reader will be confused about whether you feel the teachers are good or bad.
5. Avoid obvious comparisons. It's not very interesting to hear what we already know, so try examining similarities or differences that aren't obvious to the reader.

ASSIGNMENT

How are you similar or different from your best friend?

Write a comparison/ contrast paragraph to describe how you and your best friend have similar and/ or different personality traits.

Take into account:

The main point of the paragraph.

The organization of the supporting points

The use of explanation and examples to support your points.

The use of appropriate transition signals.

ANSWER KEY

The Organization of Comparison/ Contrast paragraph

Paragraph (1)

Write down the topic sentences.

When listening to a conversation between an American and an Englishman, a person will become aware that despite their similarities, there are significant differences between these two varieties of the English language.

Mention the subjects of the comparison/ contrast.

Two varieties of English: American English and British English

Check (✓) the main point of the paragraph

- Comparison
- Contrast
- Both, comparison and contrast

Underline the point of the paragraph in the topic sentence.

When listening to a conversation between an American and an Englishman, a person will become aware that despite their similarities, there are significant differences between these two varieties of the English language.

The Organization of Comparison/ Contrast paragraph

Paragraph (1)

	American English	British English
Differences	<p>The pronunciation of 'r' sound: 'r' before a consonant sound or at the end of a word is not pronounced.</p> <p>Some vocabulary: vest Lift Petrol</p>	<p>The pronunciation of 'r' sound: pronounce 'r' sound before a consonant sound or at the end of a word.</p> <p>Some vocabulary: undershirt elevator gas</p>
Similarities	<p>meanings of most words</p> <p>The pronunciation of the consonant sounds, the rhythm, stress, and intonation systems</p> <p>Grammar: Numerous similarities. e.g. the distinction between count and mass nouns the same verb and tense systems the formation of compare adjectives and adverbs</p>	

The Organization of Comparison/ Contrast paragraph Paragraph (2)

- Mention the subjects of the comparison/ contrast.

Subject A: Reading a story in a book / Subject B: Seeing a story in a film

- check (✓) the main point of the paragraph

Comparison Contrast Both, comparison and contrast

- Complete the outline about Paragraph (2).

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

Subject A: Reading a story in a book

Supporting points for subject A: 1- It gives a lot of description about the people , places , and things in the story , so you can create pictures in your mind .

2- 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 .

The Organization of Comparison/ Contrast paragraph Paragraph (2) follow- up

Subject B: Seeing a story in a film

Supporting points for subject B: 1- 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.

2-The conversations are : spoken out loud so you just listen and watch the feelings of the people through their faces , body movements , and voices .

- check (✓) the support organization of the paragraph
 Point-by- point organization block organization

The Organization of Comparison/ Contrast paragraph Paragraph (3)

- Check (✓) the main point of the paragraph

Comparison

Contrast

Both, comparison and

contrast

- Complete the outline about Paragraph (2).

Topic sentence: When I go to university, my parents want me to live with a host family in the city, but I want to live in a shared flat in a hall of residence on the campus.

Subject A: living with a host family.

Subject B: living in a shared flat in a hall of residence on the campus.

First point of comparison: timetable

A1: you usually have to fit in with the host family timetable .

B1: you can do what you want when you want

Second point of comparison: cooking

A2: you don't have to cook

B2: you have to cook for yourself

The Organization of Comparison/ Contrast paragraph Paragraph (3) follow- up

Third point of comparison: food price

A3: all the food is included in the price when you live with a family.

B3: you have to pay extra for food in a hall.

Fourth point of comparison: eating and cooking time

A4: there could be complications about sharing the kitchen if everyone wants to cook at the same time .

B4: you get to choose what you eat and when you eat it.

- Check (✓) the support organization of the paragraph

Point-by- point organization

block organization

Transition in comparison/ contrast Paragraph

Paragraph (4)

- Complete the paragraph with appropriate transition words.

Unlike

Both

But

On the other hand/ however/ nonetheless

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