

Language aid: comparing alternatives

<p>Comparisons = similarities</p> <p>Generalizations</p> <p>... share many common features (with) have X in common with Y ...</p> <p>... X is similar to Y X resembles Y X is the same as Y ...</p> <p>Specific point of comparisons</p> <p>... (specific point A). Similarly, (specific point B) Point B also ... Point B ..., too. Both X and Y ... Likewise, X ... Like X, Y ... In the same way, X ...</p> <p>Comparatives</p> <p>... as ... as ... X is as expensive as Y X is ... -er than Y X is more ... than Y</p> <p>(rule of thumb: - use -er than with one and two syllable words) - use more ... than with words that have three or more syllables)</p>	<p>Contrast = differences</p> <p>Generalizations</p> <p>X and Y differ from each other in ... X and Y are different from each other in terms of ... X and Y differ with respect to/ in terms of/ regarding ... One difference between X and Y is the .</p> <p>Specific point of contrast</p> <p>Unlike X, Y ... While X has no ..., Y has ... Whereas X has no ..., Y has ...</p> <p>X ...; on the other hand, Y ... X ...; however, Y ... X ...; in contrast, Y ...</p> <p>X ..., but Y ... X ..., while Y ... X ..., whereas Y ...</p> <p>X, in contrast to Y, ... X, unlike Y, ...</p>
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For comparing information within and across sentences, there are a variety of discourse markers for expressing contrast. You will see how these markers are used as we look at three different paragraphs (with three different organizational patterns).

Discourse Markers for Expressing Contrast: Group A

Coordinator	Subordinators	Adverbial connectives
but yet	whereas while / whilst [UK] although	However, ... On the other hand, ... In contrast, ... Nevertheless, ...

Note: (1) *Although* and *yet* imply that the contrast is **surprising** or **unexpected**. Use *although* and *yet* for contrast only if you want to make this implication. (2) *Whereas* is formal. (3) Use *on the other hand* when "on the one hand . . . on the other hand" is implied.

Discourse Markers for Expressing Contrast: Group B

Verbs and verb phrases	Comparative adjectives / adverbs	Prepositions	Noun
Pattern 1: A { contrasts with is unlike is different from differs from } B <i>in that...</i>	(Tall)er than... more } (important) than less }	Unlike A, B In contrast to A, B	One / A } Difference The main } (between A and B)
Pattern 2: A and B are different <i>in that...</i>			