

Help Centres – English Support



Compare-Contrast: Useful Language/Tips

Comparing

Signal Words for Connecting Sentences:

In the same way,
Likewise,
Similarly,
Also,
In comparison,

Conjunctions:

not only...but also
both
just as

Contrasting

Signal Words for Connecting Sentences:

On the other hand,
However,
In contrast,

Conjunctions:

but
yet
even though/although
While/whereas

Advice for Writing Compare/Contrast Essays

1. Ensure that there is a clear reason for the comparisons and contrasts. Ask yourself whether the points of comparison and contrast lead to a deeper understanding of the subjects of the essay.
2. Strive to avoid an extreme, unbalanced bias in the comparisons and contrasts. If you're writing in defense writing of a particular thing/person/process, you should still avoid casting the other side as bereft of any positive qualities. Provide some concessions in order to present a balanced argument.

Advice for Editing Compare/Contrast Essays

1. Maintain a logical sequence and remove extraneous points/subjects
2. Use appropriate signal words/phrases
3. Balance the body paragraphs and evidence/support for each point