

**Good morning!**

Today is going to be our last lecture, which will leave you with more time to focus with other subjects.

Today, I'm going to give you the last type of essay, which is very easy: **comparison and contrast**.

Can you compare between writing a paragraph and writing an essay?

Yes, writing a paragraph is easier while writing an essay is more difficult. A paragraph is shorter than an essay. In a paragraph, we just write a couple of sentences, like 8 to 10 sentences. While in writing an essay, you have to write at least 3 paragraphs. In terms of the introduction, in a paragraph, we just write a topic sentence, but in an essay, you have to write introduction then a thesis statement.

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Now, can you compare between a process essay and classification essay?

Yes, In the process essay, we describe or follow certain steps in a chronological order, while in a classification essay, we classify certain things into groups or types.

Can you compare between you and me?

You are a student while I am a teacher; this is one difference between us. Is there a similarity between us? Education, maybe we are both females, maybe we both have a similar age, we belong to the same generation, we live in the same city so we suffer from the same problems, etc. So, here I am comparing, and showing the similarities and differences.

- Can you compare between studying at universities and studying at schools?

In a school, we have a uniform. In university, there is no uniform. The attendance is obligatory in a school, while it's not in a university. The system is different between schools and universities. What about similarities? They both provide education. There are instructors, students, classes, and books in both of them.

- Can you compare between using your private transport and public transport?

Time: you save time in your own car, while in a public transport you have to wait, so you waste a lot of time.

Cost: The car is more expensive than the bus.

You can have your own privacy in your car and it's more comfortable.

Are there any similarities between them? Yes, they both take you to your destination. You are going to be stuck in a traffic jam in both of them if there is any.

- Can you compare between shopping on line and the traditional shopping? Yes.

Time: You save time in on line shopping.

Duration: you have to wait to get your item in on line shopping, while in the traditional way you get it immediately.

Cost: It depends on the country. Some countries have free delivery for example.

Quality: Sometimes, shopping online can be risky.

What about similarities? You can choose whatever you want in both of them. You pay money in both of them. You have many options to buy in both of them.

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► So, essays can be in three types or even more, but these are the three types that we need in the exam:

1. *The process essay*: (Which we describe the steps of making or following something).

2. *The classification essay*: (where we classify things into groups according to one principle).

3. *Compare & contrast*: (When I am comparing between two things by showing differences and similarities).

What are the linking words or transitions to use in a compare & contrast essay?

	<i>Similarities</i>	<i>differences</i>
<i>Transitions</i>	Similarly, Likewise, In the same way,	In contrast, On the other hand, However, On the contrary,
<i>Coordinating conjunction</i>	and	But yet
<i>Subordinating conjunction</i>	×	Whereas While
<i>Prepositions</i>   <i>Prepositional phrase</i>	Like Similar to	Unlike different from in contrast to

Remember after prepositions and prepositional phrases, we don't put a verb; we only put a noun or a noun phrase.

▶▶ Let's go to page 160:

### ***Practice 10 Selecting Linking Words***

***Choose the best linking expressions to complete the paragraph. Use the punctuation marks to help you select an appropriate expression.***

#### **Water Skiing and Snow Skiing**

There are some similarities, but there are more differences between water skiing and snow skiing. First of all, water skiers use two skis to stand on; (A. similarly B. like C. however), snow skiers fasten their boots to two long skies. In addition, (A. alike B. like C. in contrast to) water skiers, snow skiers bend their knees and use their bodies to turn the skis from one side to the other. As a third similarity, water skiing is (A. similarly B. similar C. similar to) snow skiing in the speed at which it is performed.

(A. Whereas B. On the other hand C. In contrast to), the two sports also have some obvious differences. (A. While B. Yet C. Instead of) water skiing can only take place when it is reasonably warm, snow skiing requires cold weather. Second,

(A. *on the other hand* B. *however* C. unlike) a water skier, a snow skier usually needs two poles for support and control. Another difference lies in the way performers of the sports get their speed. Water skiers are pulled behind a speed boat on a flat-water surface; (A. *while* B. however C. *differently*), downhill skiers push off from the top of a hill and rely on gravity to make them glide down. A snow skier also uses his or her body in a different way. (A. Unlike B. *Similar to* C. *Both*) the water skier, who leans his body backward while holding on to a rope, the downhill skier crouches down as far as possible to minimize wind resistance. Finally, a water skier is evaluated on the basis of style as well as speed, (A. but B. *different from* C. *unlike*) for a snow skier, style is unimportant. Only time counts. As a result, a person who is quite good at one sport may find that the other isn't quite as easy as he or she might have thought.

► ***The styles of the compare & contrast essay:***

1. Write the differences in the first body paragraph and the similarities in the second body paragraph.

2. Let's say that we are comparing between two subjects. For example, schools & universities; we can talk about school in general in the first body paragraph. Then, we talk about universities in the second body paragraph.

3. I don't prefer this style because it's going to be very long, and that's to compare point by point between two subjects each in a body paragraph. In this way, we may have more than four or five body paragraphs which is going to be very long.  
- The easiest style in my opinion is the second one.

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► If I want to compare between writing an essay and writing a paragraph, how can I write an essay about it?

I'm going to start with the introduction. What the introduction is going to be about? What is the umbrella term? The common topic between them is writing. So, my introduction is going to be about writing (For example, how difficult is it, how much practice does it need?). Then, I mention types of writing between a paragraph and

an essay. After that, I mention that there are some similarities and differences between them. Then, we write the first body paragraph about writing a paragraph, and the second one about writing an essay. Finally, I write the conclusion (It could be restatement or your opinion as a comment or summarize).

Now, I am going to show you some topics from the book from page 152:

### **A tale of Two Towns**

“Where do you come from?” is a question many Americans can’t answer easily. Many Americans were born in one place, lived a few years in another, went to elementary school in a third town, and so on. In my home country, we usually live all our lives in the town where we were born, but my family is different. We moved from one small town to another when I was twelve years old. For this reason, I have two “hometowns.” Although the people in the two towns think that they have nothing in common, in my opinion, they have far more similarities than differences.

The first obvious similarity lies in the location of the two towns. They are both seaside towns, lying on the south coast of Norway. They are sheltered from the ocean storms by a large group of islands and backed by hills that defend them against the cold winter winds. There are a few minor differences in their location, of course: Kristiansand, my childhood city, spreads out onto many of the protecting islands, while Arendal, my teenage town, is small and isn’t as well protected.

Second, both Kristiansand and Arendal are small. Compared to the great continental cities of Paris and Rome, they are not even dots on a map. Kristiansand is a little larger with 40,000 inhabitants, while Arendal has only about 35,000, but neither can be called a metropolis.

Furthermore, at least to a visitor, they are quite similar in their natural beauty. The islands are rough and rocky. The houses of both towns are mostly small, white-painted wooden buildings,

and the vegetation is almost exactly the same in both towns: birch trees, a few fir trees, low bushes, and moss. In addition, the ocean is a major influence on the lifestyle of both towns, and the weather forecast is the major topic of conversation.

The economies of the two towns are also based on the same business: tourism. Both native Norwegians and foreigners go on summer vacation to the two towns, and in winter, business is very slow. Of course, there are a few differences here as well. In Arendal, there are still several fishermen making a living from the sea, while Kristiansand is a busy port for large commercial ships. Still, I doubt that either town could support the population it has without the tourists.

Finally, despite the opinions of the natives of Kristiansand and Arendal, I think that the people there are very similar. Because of the size of the towns, people are mostly interested in what their neighbours do and say, and they don't care very much about what is happening in the outside world. In addition, the inhabitants of the two towns have a love-hate relationship with the necessary tourists. These tourists bring in business and money in the summer, so the natives smile at them when they meet them. However, behind their backs, the town people wish that they would just spend their money and go home.

Thus, while there are a few differences between Arendal and Kristiansand, I think that the similarities are by far more obvious. In location, size, natural beauty, economy, and people, they are very much alike. Although I sometimes feel they are too small for me now, they are my hometowns, and there is no place like home.

What are they comparing here? Between two towns.

The introduction in here is a personal story. We have four body paragraphs in this essay. So, the style in here is number 3 (point by point).

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Open your books on page 154:

## My Two Sisters

My grandfather, who was interested in genealogy, once traced our family tree as far back as he could, but he couldn't get farther back than 1759. In that year, a foreign ship visited my family's little fishing village, and nine months later, the only daughter in that family had a baby boy. No one knows what nationality that sailor was, but the genes he passed on have been playing tricks with our family ever since. In every generation, someone shows up who is radically different from all the others. In my generation, it's my older sister, Lisa, who is different. Lisa and Ellen, who is my other sister, are as opposite as night and day.

Lisa typifies the radically different part of the family. Lisa is tall, slim, and elegant, with long dark hair and brown eyes. She looks tanned even in winter and is always the first person in spring to start wearing shorts. Her personality fits her looks. When Lisa gets angry, she doesn't just do it in a small way; she makes such a commotion that it can be heard in the next town. When she's happy, she's ecstatic. When Lisa found out that she had passed her university entrance exam, she danced in bare feet through the whole town and partied for two solid weeks. She is always on the lookout for new and exciting experiences, and she never does anything halfheartedly. Her passion for life extends from love to politics; she's divorced with three daughters by two different husbands, and she's a dedicated socialist. There's nothing ordinary about Lisa.

Ellen, my younger sister, is her exact opposite. Where Lisa is tall and dark, Ellen is short (5 feet, 2 inches) and blond. Lisa wears her hair long and loose, but Ellen has no time for such nonsense and wears her blonde hair in short, practical style. Ellen's eyes are summer-sky blue, clear and untroubled. In summer, Lisa tans, but Ellen gets sunburned easily and always carries bottles of suntan lotion for herself and her equally blonde

children. Ellen is as calm as Lisa is excitable. I have never yet heard her raise her voice at anyone, and her laugh is a gentle breeze in contrast to Lisa's hurricane. Unlike Lisa, Ellen has never changed husbands, nor does she have any intention of doing so. On her wedding day, Ellen smiled softly and dressed in a traditional white dress. Lisa, on the other hand, wore a red mini-dress at her first wedding and blue jeans at her second. Ellen is a summer day, a calm ocean. She devotes herself entirely to her children and her house. Visiting Ellen's house is like coming home.

How can two such opposites be born to the same family? Until genetic research can come up with an answer, I am content to believe the story of the unknown sailor. In fact, even if a scientist should find the real answer, I'd rather not to know. Some things are more interesting when they are left to the imagination.

Here, they are comparing between two sisters. We have four body paragraphs.

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Go to page 156:

### **The Working Life**

I have held six part-time jobs so far, and I have learned something from each one of them. I had my first paid job during the summer vacation before I started high school, picking strawberries at a farm near our summerhouse. During three of my four high school years, I cleaned offices near my house once a week after school. I have also worked as a receptionist for a passenger ferry company, a salesperson in a clothing store, a math tutor for middle school students, and a maid in a hotel. While there are a few similarities between these jobs, I think the differences between them are much greater.

One obvious similarity is that they have all been part time. My parents didn't allow me to work more than one evening and one



of the weekend days (Saturday or Sunday) while I was a student. Of course, I often worked full time for a month or so during the summer but never during the school year. Another similarity is that they were basically entry-level, unskilled positions. One might think that being a math tutor was a more highly skilled job, but actually I was given all the assignments and detailed directions for how to teach the math points by the school. Still, I think the differences between these jobs are much more striking than the similarities.

The first big difference between them was the amount of mental and physical work involved. My two jobs as a strawberry picker and as a hotel maid involved a lot of heavy lifting, and in both of them I walked many miles every day. I remember crying after my second day in the strawberry field because my back muscles were so sore. The office cleaning job did involve some physical work, such as moving chairs and wastebaskets, but it was very easy in comparison. For my receptionist, tutor, and salesperson jobs, I worked in air-conditioned comfort and never lifted anything heavier than a pencil or a dress. Second, there was a great difference in the amount of independence I had. Picking strawberries, I could go as slowly or as quickly as I wanted; the more strawberries I picked, the more money I got. As a salesperson, I was also paid a commission on the amount I sold, so I had a lot of independence. In my other four jobs, I was told exactly what to do and when to do it. However, the biggest difference, in my opinion, was whether the work involved people or objects. When you are picking fruit and cleaning offices or hotel rooms, you really don't need to talk with people much. Sometimes a whole day could go by in those jobs when I hardly said anything to anyone, but as receptionist, salesperson, or tutor, establishing pleasant and effective relationships with other people was critical.

To summarize, the similarities in the amount of work and the level of skill needed are not nearly as obvious as the differences

between these jobs. Physical labor is hard on your body, but the hardest thing about these jobs for me was that I rarely got to talk with anyone. I love to talk, and I have discovered that I need to have independence and responsibility in the kind of work I do. As a result, I kept my part-time salesperson job through all four years of high school. Being a receptionist was somewhat boring, but at least I got to chat with a lot of different people. Therefore, besides earning pocket money and saving for college and some vacations abroad, my six jobs have taught me a lot about the kind of work that suits me. A career with lots of independence, responsibility, and interaction with interesting people is the path for me.

If you see here at the end of the introduction (the thesis statement):

While there are a few similarities between these jobs, I think the differences between them are much greater. So, here the writer is comparing between four jobs. We have two body paragraphs. The style in here is number 1 (showing the differences then showing the similarities). The conclusion in here is very long, I don't think it should be that long.

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▶▶ Now, I am going to tell you some important points for the exam:

1. In the exam, you are required with the previous three types: (*Process essay* \ *classification essay* \ *compare & contrast essay*)
2. There will be 40 marks for the theoretical part, like the practices about the linking words from the book.
3. In the practical part, there will be 3 options for you (one is process \ the other one is classification \ and one is compare & contrast). You choose what you know about, and what you feel easier for you.
4. The topics will be general. So, they are going to be easy.

5. Remember not to do deadly mistakes, like (It are or They is).
6. My advice for you, when you write for the first time, just focus on the ideas. When you are done, review for the grammar. Reread your essay for the third time to check your spelling. I'm a little bit tolerant for the spelling mistakes so don't worry. Even native speakers have spelling mistakes, but I'm not tolerant at all with the grammar mistakes so be careful.
7. You can't have a dictionary in the exam.
8. Don't forget the thesis statement.
9. Don't forget to separate each paragraph from another. Don't write one long paragraph because I want an essay not a paragraph.
10. Use linkers in the body paragraphs. It makes your writing more professional and advanced.
11. Don't repeat ideas or words.
12. Try to achieve coherence in your essay.

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**Good luck in your exams ☺**

