

# COMPARE/CONTRAST WRITING

## Packet:

- One complete model essay with annotation
- Model paragraphs with annotation
- Brainstorming and pre-writing activities
- Double-Bubble map activity
- Grammar for writing: transitions and connectors
- Topic sentences: examples and practice

the **ESL** girl

# Compare / Contrast Writing:

to compare → to explain similarities

to contrast → to explain differences

THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE ESSAY IS THE "HOOK". WHEN YOU READ THIS SENTENCE, ARE YOU INTERESTED? WHAT DOES IT MAKE YOU THINK ABOUT OR IMAGINE?

An American in South Korea

HIGH-LIGHT THE THESIS.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT IS THIS ESSAY GOING TO BE ABOUT?

The smell of fish became stronger with each step through the puddle-filled aisles. Walking through the fish market in Seoul, South Korea is an experience that made me feel far from home. Living in South Korea was a great experience. Although I enjoyed my time and life in Korea, it was definitely different from my home. South Korea and The United States have different food, city lifestyles, and holidays.

First, the food in South Korea and The United States is very different. In the United States, and Korean people use a red, spicy sauce in many dishes. Also, Korean people use a lot of spicy. When a meal is ordered, it often comes with many side-dishes. In the United States, the United States does not traditionally use a lot of spicy. At a restaurant, a side-dish will cost more money. There are just two examples of how food is different.

Secondly, the lifestyle is different. In the United States, the average student or employee walks or takes public transportation to school or work. In South Korea, people mostly live in tall apartment buildings. Families live in small apartments with little space. On the other hand, people in The United States drive more than walk. It is not as common for students to walk or take public transportation to school. Families live in houses and have large yards for their children to play.

Finally, South Korea has many cultural traditions that are different from The United States. South Korea celebrates a harvest holiday in Autumn called Chuseok. It is a time for families to come together, have a nice meal, and celebrate the harvest. An interesting holiday in South Korea is Children's Day. This day is a national holiday to celebrate children. Children play outside and have special snacks. The United States does not celebrate Chuseok, but it does have a Thanksgiving Holiday. It is similar to Chuseok because families come together to have a big meal and give thanks for their lives. The United States does not have a specific day for children. Instead, summer break from school is considered a holiday for children to rest and play.

In Conclusion, South Korea and The United States have many differences. Food, city-life, and holidays are all differences between the two countries. Although these countries have differences, they are both wonderful countries with wonderful traditions. I would encourage others to travel and explore other cultures outside of their own.

DOES THE CONCLUSION SUMMARIZE THE ESSAY? UNDERLINE THOSE SENTENCES.

WHAT DOES THE AUTHOR WANT THE READER TO KNOW OR UNDERSTAND?

UNDERLINE THE TOPIC-SENTENCES OF EACH BODY PARAGRAPH.

CIRCLE ALL OF THE TRANSITION WORDS, OR "CONNECTOR" WORDS.

YOU NEED TWO COLORS. WITH ONE COLOR, HIGH-LIGHT ALL DETAILS ABOUT SOUTH KOREA IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, & 4.

WITH THE SECOND COLOR, HIGH-LIGHT ALL THE DETAILS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, & 4.

LOOK AT THE COLORS AND DETAILS. WHAT CAN YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE DETAILS IN EACH PARAGRAPH?

## Looking at independent paragraphs:

### Body Paragraph #1:

High-light the topic sentence of this paragraph.

In your own words, what is the main-idea of this paragraph?

First, the food in South Korea and The United States is very different. A lot of Korean food is spicy and Korean people use a red, spicy sauce in many dishes. Also, Korean restaurants serve a lot of side-dishes. When a meal is ordered, it often comes with many small side dishes for the table to share. In contrast, The United States does not traditionally use a lot of spice. Food is sweet or salty rather than spicy. At a restaurant, a side-dish will cost more money or they are ordered separately from a meal. These are just two examples of how food is different in South Korea and The United States.

In compare / contrast writing, you must give equal details for each topic. For example, the author talks about spicy food in South Korea, therefore, the author must also give details about taste in the United States.

gives about taste.  
gives details about side-dishes.

### Conclusion

What does "in conclusion" mean and show the reader?

In Conclusion, South Korea and The United States have many differences. Food, city-life, and holidays are different between the two countries. Although these countries have differences, they are both wonderful countries with wonderful traditions. I would encourage others to travel and explore other cultures outside of their own.

Why do you think the author ended the essay with an opinion?

If you could explore another culture, which would you choose?

A conclusion should have a sentence that summarizes the essay or restates the thesis.

High-light the summary sentence.

## Pre-Writing: Brainstorming

Each thought-bubble has two topics. Think about and share some ways they are similar and different:



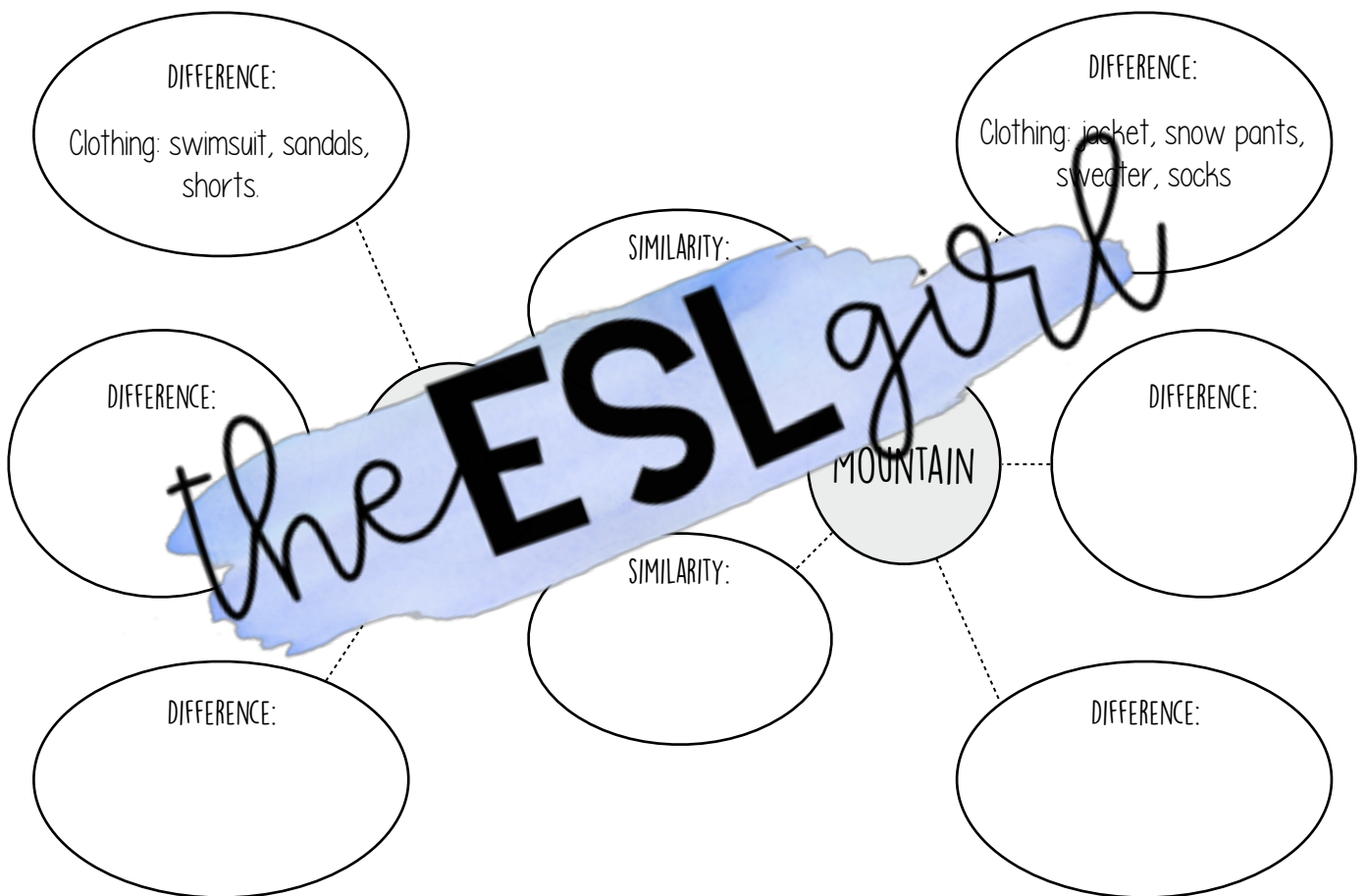
## Brainstorming with a double-bubble map:

This double-bubble map shows similarities and differences between ocean and mountain vacations.

- In the middle circles, write some similarities.
- In the outer circles, write some differences.

\* Every "difference" detail must have a matching detail on the other side. See the example about clothing below.

\* If you think of more similarities or differences, just add a circle!



### Finish the sentences:

1. A beach and mountain vacation are similar because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A beach and mountain vacation have many differences. Three differences are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Your turn!

**Partner or Group Work:** Choose a topic below. Draw and make a double-bubble map showing similarities and differences. At the bottom of the page, write a complete sentence about similarities and a complete sentence about their differences.

Topics:

- computers and cell-phones
- art class and P.E. class
- Your culture and another
- Two holidays

Draw your

Complete sentence about similarities:

Complete sentence about differences:

## Grammar for Writing: Transitions and Connectors

### Word forms for similar and difference:

<b>similar</b>	adjective	Computers and cell-phones are very similar.
<b>similarity</b>	noun (one)	One similarity between computers and cell-phones is...
<b>similarities</b>	noun (two or more)	There are many similarities between computers and cell-phones.
<b>Similarly,</b>	transition	Computers are useful for research. Similarly, cell-phones can also be used to search for information.
<b>different</b>	adjective	Computers and cell-phones are different.
<b>difference</b>	noun (one)	Size is a difference between a computer and a cell-phone.
<b>differences</b>	noun (two or more)	Computers and cell-phones have some differences.

### Transitions and connectors for comparing:

<b>Similarly,</b>	Canadians speak English. Similarly, _____
<b>Likewise,</b>	_____
<b>also</b>	_____ in English. _____ in the United States also.
<b>as well as</b>	_____ as well as _____.
<b>as well</b>	_____ in Canada are called Americans. People in The United states are called Americans as well.
<b>in addition</b>	In addition, people in The United States play hockey.

LOOK AT YOUR DOUBLE-BUBBLE MAP. CAN YOU USE A CONNECTOR TO COMPARE YOUR TOPICS?

### Transitions and connectors for contrasting:

USE A CONNECTOR TO SHOW A DIFFERENCE FROM YOUR DOUBLE-BUBBLE MAP.

<b>In contrast,</b>	Canada's government has a Prime Minister. In contrast, The United States' government has a president.
<b>On the other hand,</b>	On the other hand, the United States has a president.
<b>However,</b>	However, _____.
<b>but</b>	_____, but _____.

## Writing Topic Sentences:

Your body paragraphs must have a clear topic sentence. Your topic sentence introduces what your paragraph will be about.

Here are some ways to start your paragraphs:

### Comparing Paragraphs:

One similarity between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is ...

Another similarity between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is ...

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are similar because ...

Both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ...

### Contrasting Paragraphs:

One difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is ...

Another difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is ...

Unlike \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ ...

Another difference ...

### Sequencing:

First,

Second,

Finally,

In conclusion,

All in all,

**Your turn!**

Look at your double-bubble map and write a topic sentence you could use in your essay.

WRITE A TOPIC SENTENCE:

WRITE A CONTRASTING TOPIC SENTENCE:

WRITE A CONTRASTING TOPIC SENTENCE:

WRITE ONE MORE TOPIC SENTENCE:



# theESLgirl

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE



Hello!  
Hi!  
Hey!  
Welcome!  
What's up?  
How's it going?

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING A FELLOW TEACHER! I'M KIM & I LOVE TEACHING ALL THINGS ESL / ELL RELATED. MY GOAL IS TO HELP SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS FEEL COMFORTABLE, SAFE, AND CONFIDENT. IF THEY LEAVE THE CLASSROOM FEELING LIKE SOMEONE BELIEVES IN THEM, THEN I'VE DONE ALL THAT MATTERS.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THIS RESOURCE FOR ALL OF YOUR CLASSES & EDUCATION NEEDS. HOWEVER, PLEASE DO NOT SHARE WITH OTHER TEACHERS OR POST IN SHARED-FOLDERS. IT'S GREATLY APPRECIATED!

@THEESLGRIL  
#THEESLGRIL



POST YOUR STUDENTS USING ONE OF MY RESOURCES & TAG @THEESLGRIL FOR A REPOST!