

Comparing and Contrasting

*Compare is to think about how two things are alike.
Contrast is to think about how two things are different.*

Key vocabulary words signal that a comparison or contrast is about to be made in text. These include:-

Contrast	Compare
<i>although</i>	<i>alike</i>
<i>instead of</i>	<i>same as</i>
<i>however</i>	<i>similar to</i>
<i>but not</i>	<i>compared with</i>
<i>different from</i>	<i>as well as</i>

Part 8: Reading Comprehension- Comparing and Contrasting Within and Between Text



Good readers understand new ideas in texts by thinking about how things are alike or different. They make comparisons between texts and between prior knowledge and new ideas. This understanding deepens their comprehension. The process of comparing and contrasting is used to identify how two or more things are alike and different. This skill requires readers to think more deeply about what they are reading in order to determine these likenesses and differences. This skill helps children identify language cues, define ideas and clarify thinking, making information memorable by engaging them in critical thoughts.

Tips to help at home!

- ✓ *After your child reads a selection of texts ask them to compare and contrast what they read. This could be between characters, chapters, and different stories of the same genre/author.*
- ✓ *Challenge your child to name the similarities and differences between familiar objects. Begin comparing two people or places and then move on to comparing the characters or settings in a story.*
- ✓ *Complete visual information "Spot the differences".*
- ✓ *When reading to your child, model this strategy by thinking out loud. This may sound something like, "This story is a lot like ____ because _____. I noticed ____ and ____ are very similar. I also noticed a few differences. Some things that were not the same are _____."*
- ✓ *Try the "solve the word mystery" game. Write down a pair of words, and challenge your child to list how they are alike and different.*

Focus Questions

- *What does this selection remind you of?*
- *What does (idea from selection) remind you of?*
- *What comparisons did the author use to describe ideas?*
- *What similes or metaphors did the author use to describe ideas in the selection?*
- *What are the similarities described? What are the differences described?*
- *How did the author help readers learn new ideas?*