ENGL 155 Chapter 5 Comparison Essay

1. **IMPORTANT NOTES ON WRITING A COMPARISON ESSAY**
2. You must at least read one of the two essays in Unit 2. If you get a chance, read both to understand how a comparison can be written. Comparison essays are more difficult than process essays so prepare carefully.
3. For comparison essay, remember that the topic sentence of each paragraph will show what you will be comparing in that paragraph. Use connectors from pp. 115-116 to clearly state which relationship or comparison you are making. See how this is done in the topic sentences of all the body paragraphs on pp. 109-111 and again on pp. 117-118.
4. Practice writing thesis statements for all the practise topics on the course webpage and also topics provided in Activity 6, p. 115. It will also be a good idea if you prepare plans with points and key words.
5. Your conclusion should summarise the differences and the similarities, and then comment on the topic very briefly. You can make a stance and choose subject A or B, or even decide that neither is good (as they did on p. 119), you may suggest that one is good for certain people or certain conditions, or suggest a mixture of both options (as they did on p. 111).
6. **How to Use Transitions and Connectors That Focus on Similarities and Differences**

**Similarities**

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| **No** | **Connector** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1 | also | This house **also** has seven rooms. |
| 2 | as | Bahrain is not **as** big **as** Thailand.  Her new book is **as** interesting **as** her first book. |
| 3 | as well (as) | The new software works on **PCs as well as** mobile phones.  You can pay by card and you can pay in cash **as well**. |
| 4 | both | **Both** Manama and Muharraq are located in the north of Bahrain.  There are drawbacks in **both** systems. |
| 5 | compared to | The University of Bahrain is large **compared to** Al Ahliya University.  **Compared to** Al Ahliya University**,** the University of Bahrain is large. |
| 6 | equally | Both gas stations are **equally** far from the highway.  Company A suffered from setbacks. **Equally,** Company B’s business slowed down. |
| 7 | have in common | Riyadh and Jeddah **have** a lot in **common**. |
| 8 | in addition | **In addition to** its low price**,** X is light weight but heavy duty.  X is inexpensive. **In addition,** it is light weight but heavy duty. |
| 9 | in the same way | This machine works **in the same way** as the old machine.  This was a strange room. **In the same way,** the museum was strange and uncomfortable. |
| 10 | a similarity | The current oil crisis bears **some similarity** to the previous oil crisis 40 years ago.  There are several points of **similarity between** the two. |
| 11 | similar to | The cover of the first book is **similar to** the cover of the second book. |
| 12 | too | X has seven input ports. Y has seven input ports **too**. |

**Differences**

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| **No** | **Connector** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1 | an advantage  a disadvantage | In Bahrain, owning a car is **an advantage.** **However,** in the UK, owning a car may be seen as **a disadvantage** to some people. |
| 2 | although | **Although** both Bahrain and Thailand have sandy beaches**,** Thailand beaches are much more popular among tourists. |
| 3 | but | The old system was easy to use**, but** the new one can be operated only by professionals. |
| 4 | contrary to | **Contrary to** what most people expect, chimpanzees are wild and dangerous.  She was irresponsible**, contrary to** what he said about her. |
| 5 | on the contrary | Online learning is not dull and boring. **On the contrary,** it can be fun and challenging.  Z is very expensive **while** Y, on the **contrary**, are affordable. |
| 6 | contrasted to | When **contrasted to** other universities in Bahrain, the University of Bahrain often stands out.  This is a complicated option **contrasted to** the other four. |
| 7 | X differ from Y | Raw honey **differs from** refined honey when it comes to nutritional values. |
| 8 | a/ another difference | **A major difference** between the two machines is the size.  Size is **a major difference between** the two machines.  **Another difference** between the two machines is size. |
| 9 | different from | Karbabad is **different** from Aali in several ways. |
| 10 | even though | **Even though** breakfast is included**,** the price is too high. |
| 11 | however | Bahrain is a very small country**; however,** it is highly populated. |
| 12 | in contrast (to) | **In contrast to** Thailand**,** Malaysia has a Muslim majority.  The vast majority of Thai people are Buddhists**. In contrast,** Malaysia has a Muslim majority. |
| 13 | instead | Many people in Bahrain use cars to get to work. In Sweden, many people often walk or cycle to work **instead**.  **Instead of** using the car, many people in Sweden walk or cycle to work.  He refused to meet us. Instead, he only interviewed us on phone. |
| 14 | on the contrary | It is not difficult to learn cooking. **On the contrary,** it is easy and fun.  Americans have one of highest percentage of heart diseases. Japan**, on the contrary,** has the highest health level. |
| 15 | on the other hand | **On the other hand,** there are some similarities between the two movies. |
| 16 | (the) opposite | He has **the opposite** problem.  Alaska and Nairobi seem to be **opposite**. |
| 17 | rather | I did not go to my uncle’s house this `weekend**; rather,** I stayed at home to study. |
| 18 | (the) reverse | This is **the reverse of** what I was taught when I was young. |
| 19 | though | I know it is a difficult course. It will be very useful**, though.** |
| 20 | unless | **Unless** you are a tourist**,** you will have to pay taxes.  You will have to pay taxes **unless** you are a tourist. |
| 21 | unlike | **Unlike** Swiss people**,** most French people speak only one language fluently.  Most French people speak only one language fluently **unlike** Swiss people. |
| 22 | whereas | Using the swimming pool is free **whereas** you have to pay for the other facilities.  **Whereas** you have to pay for the other facilities**,** using the swimming pool is free. |
| 23 | while | **While** skipping classes at school is not easy**,** one can easily skip classes at university.  One can easily skip classes at university **while** skipping classes at school is not easy. |
| 24 | yet | There are so many cows in the Sudan**, yet** bad road networks make a major obstacle to investing in them. |