

Comparison & Contrast

Comparing and contrasting is an important skill in academic writing. It can be done at the text or paragraph level.

Differences

Transition words followed by **a clause**

- although/even though
- but/however/nevertheless
- whereas/while
- on the one hand ... on the other hand
- on the contrary

Similarities

alike
as...as
both, too, also
like, similar to
likewise, similarly
in the same way
the same as
equally
just as

Differences

Transition words followed by **a noun/noun phrase**

- unlike
- despite/in spite of
- different from
- instead of



Mammals

- warm-blooded
- have live births
- have hair

- vertebrates
- breathe with lungs
- reproduce sexually

Reptiles

- cold-blooded
- lay eggs
- have scales



Describing similarities and differences

An Example: Mammals vs Reptiles

Mammals and reptiles are **both** vertebrates and they share some **similar** characteristics. They **both** breathe with lungs. **Like** most vertebrates, mammals and reptiles reproduce sexually. **However**, they also differ in a number of ways. For example, mammals are warm-blooded, **whereas** most reptiles are cold-blooded. **Unlike** mammals which have live births, most reptiles lay eggs. Hair is a defining characteristic of all mammals. Reptiles, **on the contrary**, do not have hair. They have scales instead.