

transitional tools
for assignments



Composition Skills

Transitions for Comparison and Contrast

There are many transitions that can be used for comparison and contrast. They fall into the following four major groups. Study them carefully, and note the necessary punctuation for each type.

TRANSITIONS FOR COMPARISON AND CONTRAST

Type	Examples
Phrase + Noun <i>For similarity:</i> similar to in comparison to <i>For difference:</i> in contrast with unlike	Similar to New Orleans, Los Angeles attracts many tourists. In comparison to airline travel, you are also allowed to check luggage on a train. In contrast with Dallas, San Francisco has a cold climate. Unlike the Road Runner, the Speed Demon is quite economical.
Coordinating Conjunctions <i>For similarity:</i> and <i>For difference:</i> but yet	New York and San Francisco both have good public transportation. San Diego is very dry, but Houston is not. The Speed Demon is cheaper than the Road Runner, yet it has a better air-conditioning system.
Subordinating Conjunctions <i>For similarity:</i> just as <i>For difference:</i> whereas	Just as Boston has four seasons, Montreal does too. Whereas American students may study part-time, Lebanese students must study full-time.
Expressions Between Sentences <i>For similarity:</i> likewise similarly <i>For difference:</i> on the other hand in contrast however	Rainfall has been higher than normal in New England this spring. Likewise , the west coast has seen more rain than usual. Miami has a big seafood business. Similarly , a great deal of fishing is done around San Francisco. Senator Smith wants to reduce the budget deficit by raising taxes. On the other hand , Jones advocates making more cuts in spending. Miami has hot, humid summers. In contrast , San Francisco's summers are cool and windy.