

Although ultralight and single-engine planes are visually similar, they differ in construction, flight requirements, and cost.

Although Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Steve Martin's *L.A. Story* are from different periods and are different genres, they are similar in plot, theme, and characterization. (blueprinted thesis)

The thesis announces the subjects of the essay, ultralight and single-engine planes, and spells out their differences.

This essay will emphasize similarities.

Transitions

Transitions used in comparison generally show similarity or addition, and transitions used in contrast generally show difference or dissimilarity, but many transitions can be appropriate in comparison or contrast depending on the content.

Common Transitional Devices Used for Comparison

also	in addition
as a matter of fact	in fact
besides	likewise
for instance	moreover
furthermore	similarly

Common Transitional Devices Used for Contrast

conversely	nonetheless
however	otherwise
instead	on the contrary
nevertheless	on the other hand

Tips on Planning Comparison/Contrast

1. Select the subjects for your comparison/contrast with a purpose and audience in mind. There should be a reason for bringing the two topics together. Are you trying to help the reader understand the subjects or persuade the reader that one subject is preferable to the other? There wouldn't be any good reason to compare/contrast knives and forks, for example, because such a comparison would serve no useful purpose for the reader. There should also be a basis for your comparison. For example, it wouldn't make sense to compare apples and *Star Trek* because they aren't in the same category and therefore the comparison wouldn't make sense. Try to compare/contrast two things that share a basis for comparison (two teachers, two cars, two players, two air conditioners, etc.).