

COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

B2-C1 | Functional language for making balanced comparisons

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to compare ideas clearly and show both sides of an issue.

In comparison, ...

In comparison, the second option is cheaper.

whereas

One team works locally, whereas the other works online.

in contrast

In contrast, the newer system is easier to use.

similarly

Similarly, both plans need careful planning.

unlike

Unlike the first model, this one uses less energy.

on the other hand

On the other hand, the change may cost more.

the main difference is ...

The main difference is the level of risk.

a key similarity is ...

A key similarity is their focus on quality.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one balanced comparison for each situation. Try to use a range of phrases.

1. Compare working from home and working in an office.

2. Compare two proposals for reducing costs.

3. Compare a small local business and a large international company.

4. Compare a face-to-face meeting and an online meeting.

5. Compare two ways of collecting customer feedback.

6. Compare investing in staff training and buying new equipment.

7. Compare two cities as places to start a business.

8. Compare a short-term plan and a long-term strategy.

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B2-C1 | Suggested answers

3 Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and suitable responses are also correct.

Encourage students to use a range of phrase patterns from page 1.

1. Working from home is flexible, whereas an office offers more direct contact.

2. In comparison with the second proposal, the first saves money faster but carries greater risk.

3. Unlike a local business, an international company may have a larger market.

4. A key similarity is that both meetings need a clear agenda.

5. An online survey is faster; on the other hand, interviews give more detail.

6. Similarly, both training and new equipment can improve performance.

7. The main difference is the cost of rent and access to customers.

8. A short-term plan aims for quick results. In contrast, a long-term strategy builds stability.
