

COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

B2-C1 | Conversation practice examples for making balanced comparisons

Conversation: Two ways of lending tools

Helen	The neighbouring town lends tools from its library, whereas we were planning a separate workshop.
Marco	The main difference is staffing. Their library already has someone at the desk throughout the day.
Helen	Our workshop would offer demonstrations, though. People could learn how to use what they borrow.
Marco	True. In comparison , the library scheme is simpler, but it depends on borrowers already knowing what they're doing.
Helen	Would it be fair to say the schemes serve different needs?
Marco	Partly. A key similarity is that both make equipment available to people who can't afford to buy it.
Helen	We might combine the ideas by lending from the library and holding occasional sessions here.
Marco	Yes. Unlike a staffed workshop every day, that would give us a way to start with fewer volunteers.

Key phrases: The main difference is / In comparison / A key similarity is / Unlike

Conversation: Comparing two research reports

Mina	Both reports looked at the same neighbourhood, but their conclusions about commuting are quite different.
Joel	The first surveyed residents in person, whereas the second used an online questionnaire.
Mina	Could that explain why the online report shows more people working from home?
Joel	Possibly. In contrast , the first team visited during the morning, when many commuters had already left.
Mina	So neither sample necessarily represents everyone who lives there.
Joel	Exactly. On the other hand , both reports found strong demand for better evening transport.
Mina	That result seems more useful than treating either commuting figure as the full picture.
Joel	Agreed. We should compare the methods as well as the percentages before using either report to support a policy.

Key phrases: whereas / In contrast / On the other hand

Create your own conversation

Choose one prompt. Use at least two key phrases and include a natural response and follow-up.

Prompt 1: Compare two service models. Identify a shared aim and explain the practical differences.

Prompt 2: Compare research findings and methods. Explain how differences in sampling affect your interpretation.