

COMPARISONS AND CONTRASTS


1 Inventions

- Start here** 1 Work in pairs. Discuss the design of this vehicle and compare it with (a) a normal motorbike and (b) a sports car. Consider the features in the box and any others which you think are important. Make notes of your ideas.

number of wheels speed acceleration
braking power ease of turning
stability (on rough roads)
stability (when it turns) storage space
comfort excitement safety



The Can-Am Spyder roadster

- Listening** 2  29 Listen to this test report on the performance of the Spyder against the Zoomster XL motorcycle. Tick the correct statements in the checklist below.

The Spyder ...

- 1 has brakes which are a great deal more powerful than the Zoomster's
- 2 reaches the same maximum speed as the Zoomster
- 3 accelerates as quickly as the Zoomster
- 4 is much more difficult to steer than the Zoomster
- 5 has much better suspension than the Zoomster on a bumpy road
- 6 is a lot less stable than the Zoomster when taking a bend at speed
- 7 is slightly less safe than the Zoomster
- 8 is about three times more expensive than the Zoomster

- 3 Listen again and correct the statements in 2.

Language

This motorbike is	far	more expensive	than	that one.
This car accelerates	much a great deal a lot slightly a little	less quickly more slowly		

We can modify a comparison in a **more specific** way, like this:

The new hard drive is	three times ten percent a third 3 MB	larger	than	the old one.	
This engine is	twice three times half	as	powerful	as	that one.

SENTENCES: COMPARISONS, CONTRASTS AND PARALLELISM

Observe some common ways in which comparisons and contrasts can be expressed between sentences:

COMPARISON BETWEEN SENTENCES	CONTRAST BETWEEN SENTENCES
This machine is expensive to buy.	
Similarly , it is expensive to operate. Likewise , it is expensive to operate. Correspondingly , it is expensive to operate.	On the other hand , it is cheap to operate. In contrast , it is cheap to operate. Conversely , it is cheap to operate.

XI. Put the following linking words into the appropriate groups according to their meanings.

while, like, however, yet, at the same time, despite, nevertheless, also, unlike, similarly, in the same way, even though, again, compared to, in contrast, regardless, in like manner, correspondingly, contrasted with, likewise, on the contrary, although, still, but, conversely, similar to, on the one hand ... on the other hand

expressing similarity:	expressing difference:
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COMPARISONS AND NUMBERS

*III. Complete the sentences with **as, more, less, that** or **than**.*

- More people go fishing _____ play football.
- It's not _____ interesting _____ the other one.
- This is _____ interesting _____ that.
- You're right. It's _____ interesting than the other.
- But it's not _____ useful.
- China is bigger _____ India.
- London is _____ polluted than Oslo.

IV. Look at the table and complete the sentences below. Use the words in the box. You can use the same phrase more than once.

	Estimated population
Canada	39,742,430
Russia	144,820,423
Oman	5,281,538
Germany	84,552,242
Belize	417,072
Japan	123,753,041
New Zealand	5,213,944

*the size
(slightly) smaller
there are
(much) bigger
as big
twice
the biggest
the same as*

- Russia has _____ population.
- _____ more people in Russia than Oman.
- Germany has a _____ population than Canada.
- New Zealand has a _____ than Oman.
- New Zealand's population is almost _____ Oman's.
- Canada's population is about eight times _____ of Oman's.
- Canada's population is about eight times _____ as Oman's.
- Russia's population is about _____ as big as Germany's.
- Russia's population is about _____ the size of Germany's.

Expressing parallelism

Observe:

a)	The more you learn, the more you know. The more you know, the more you forget. The more you forget, the less you know. So why learn?
b)	The longer the tape (is), the more information it can store.
c)	The longer the night, the shorter the day. The sooner, the better.

VIII. Using this pattern, express parallelism between:

- the price of a camera and its reliability
- the degree of automation and the need for manual work.
- the size of a house and the cost of heating
- the speed of a car and the duration of a journey
- the simplicity and elegance of an apparatus
- the sophistication of a device and the likelihood that it will go wrong.

VOCABULARY

to contrast		to compare	
while/whilst	more... than	likewise	to reflect
whereas	different from	similarly	to mirror
however	differ(ence)	just... as	to have in common
on the other hand	although	as... as	
even so	in contrast to	in the same way	
nevertheless	conversely	like	
less...than	unlike	alike	

EXPRESSING CONTRAST

Although + noun + verb	Although prices rose, sale increased. Sales increased, although prices rose.
Despite + noun	Despite price reductions, sales fell. Sales rose despite price increases.
In spite of + noun	In spite of price reductions, sales fell Sales rose in spite of price increases.
Statement + In contrast + noun + verb	Rainfall decreased. In contrast , temperatures rose.