

# How to write “Compare & Contrast” reports

# “Compare & Contrast” reports

In compare and contrast reports, you need to describe the **similarities** and **differences** between two things.

**Similarities** = what is similar

**Differences** = what is different



	Horse	Camel
Height of adult	6 foot	8 foot
Main colour	White	Brown
Top speed	49km	32km
Thoroughbred	\$20,000	\$12,000
Primary diet	Grass	Leaves

# Example table

Look at the **facts and figures (data || information)** in this table

- » Are there more **similarities** or more **differences**?
- » How many **similarities** and **differences** are there?

(Describe the ways they are *exactly the same* in the **similarities** paragraph)



	Arabian horse	Arabian camel
Type of animal	Mammal	Mammal
Region	Arabian Gulf	Middle East
Habitat	Desert	Desert
Size	1.45 – 1.55 metres	2.3 – 2.5 metres
Weight	300 – 400 KG	600 – 800 KG
Diet	Grass and Hay	Grass and Leaves
Lifespan	20 to 25 years	35 to 40 years
Special Features	Can run fast for a very long time.	Can go without water for a very long time.



# The introduction paragraph



Good **introductions** should include three parts

» Topic sentence

This should explain where the information is from and what the information is.

*The table provides some information on two animals: the Arabian horse and the Arabian camel.*

» Thesis statement

This should state what you are going to do

Describe the overall findings

*In this report I will compare and contrast the similarities and differences between them, overall the differences are greater than the similarities.*

Good reports have three paragraphs:

**introduction** → **differences** → **similarities**

**introduction** → **similarities** → **differences**

# The differences paragraph



At intermediate level, you should write about ALL of the information provided.

» You should try to write TWO sentences for each criteria.

The first sentence makes a comparison (which is bigger, heavier, more expensive, etc).

*The Arabian camel is taller than the Arabian Horse.*

The second sentence gives the information from the chart that shows the comparison is true.

*The average height of the Arabian Camel is 2.3 to 2.5 meters, whereas the average height of the Arabian horse is 1.45 to 1.55 meters.*

# The differences paragraph



I will **begin** by focusing on the differences, we can see that there are many (in fact, there are five).

**First**, the Arabian horse's region is the Arabian Gulf, *while* the Arabian camel's region is the Middle East.

**In addition**, the Arabian camel is bigger than the Arabian horse. The Arabian camel is 2.3 to 2.5 meters tall, *whereas* the Arabian horse is 1.45 to 1.55 meters tall.

**Moreover**, the Arabian camel weighs more than the Arabian horse (300 to 400KG *compared to* 600 to 800KG).

**Furthermore**, the Arabian camel's lifespan is longer than the Arabian horse's. The Arabian camel lives for 35 to 40 years, *on the other hand*, the Arabian horse lives for 20 to 25 years.

**Finally**, these two animals have different special features. The Arabian horse can run fast for a very long time, *while* the Arabian camel can live without water for a very long time.

# The similarities paragraph



**Now** I will look at the similarities.

**Actually**, they are *exactly the same* in two ways. **Firstly** they are both mammals and **secondly**, they both live in the same type of habitat which is the desert.

**Moreover**, both of these animals have a similar diet. The Arabian camel eats grass and leaves *whereas* the Arabian horse eats grass and hay.

# The report in full



The table provides some information on two animals: the Arabian horse and the Arabian camel. In this report I will compare and contrast the similarities and differences between them. Overall, the differences are greater than the similarities (five compared to three).

I will begin by focusing on the differences, we can see that there are many (in fact, there are five). First, the Arabian horse's region is the Arabian Gulf, while the Arabian camel's region is the Middle East. In addition, the Arabian camel is bigger than the Arabian horse. The Arabian camel is 2.3 to 2.5 meters tall, whereas the Arabian horse is 1.45 to 1.55 meters tall. Moreover, the Arabian camel weighs more than the Arabian horse (300 to 400KG compared to 600 to 800KG). Furthermore, the Arabian camel's lifespan is longer than the Arabian horse's. The Arabian camel lives for 35 to 40 years, on the other hand, the Arabian horse lives for 20 to 25 years. Finally, these two animals have different special features. The Arabian horse can run fast for a very long time, while the Arabian camel can live without water for a very long time.

Now I will look at the similarities. Actually, they are exactly the same in two ways. Firstly they are both mammals and secondly, they both live in the same type of habitat which is the desert. Moreover, both of these animals have a similar diet. The Arabian camel eats grass and leaves whereas the Arabian horse eats grass and hay.



# Example of “three” things being compared



Table: Job requirements and benefit packages

	University teacher	Policewoman	Journalist
Qualifications needed	University degree and a Masters	High school diploma	University degree
Languages required	Fluent English and some Arabic	Arabic	Fluency in both Arabic and English
Annual holidays	19 weeks	18 weeks	5 weeks
Salary (per month, in AED)	22,000.00	35,000.00	14,500.00
Working hours (per day)	8	7	9

# Vocabulary and “round numbers”



Table: Lucy and Daisy

Criteria	Lucy	Daisy	Vocabulary that can be used
A	100	100	
B	99	98	
C	25%	50%	
D	33	99	
E	49	51	
F	20	80	

# Table 1: Lions compared to tigers



## The Lion compared to the Tiger

Key statistics	Lion	Tiger
Region	Africa	Asia
Habitat	Savannah	Jungle
Average lifespan	13	26
Weight (adult male)	182 kg	310 kg
Speed	44 miles per hour	53 miles per hour
Height	4.8 feet	5.1 feet
Diet	Other animals	Other animals
Special features	Can swim very well	Can roar very loudly

# Table 2: Dubai Mall and Deira City Center



Dubai Mall and Deira City Center



Mall info	Dubai Mall	Deira City Centre
Size of the mall	Huge (world's largest) – 12mn sq. foot	Very big – 1.1mn sq. foot
Key Features	Ice ring and aquarium	...
Car parking places	9,870	2,500
Hypermarkets	Yes (3)	Yes (1)
Furniture stores	16	8
Clothes shops	151	89
Book shops	3	3
Electronic shops	75	25
Size of food court	249 outlets	101 outlets

# Table 3: Employment patterns over the ages



## Employment patterns over the ages

Employment sector	18 – 25 age group	26 – 40 age group	41 – 65 age group
Agriculture	5	7	9
Manufacturing	12	15	23
Catering	6	8	4
Government	6	12	18
Health	12	15	12
Retail (shopping malls and trade)	23	7	6
Law and Order	4	4	4
Accountancy	3	2	3
Education	9	12	12
Banking and Finance	21	18	9

# The Global Happiness Index data



Table: Global Happiness Index (selected countries)

Country	Average income (in \$)	Average holiday days	Happiness score
The UK	75,015	55	93.3
Sweden	64,999	70	92.5
The UAE	85,000	90	89.1
Australia	69,000	44	77.2
Japan	80,000	46	75.0
Chile	51,670	45	71.8
Poland	48,060	30	65.1
Russia	24,030	15	45.8

# Natural gas: consumption and production figures



Table: Consumption and Production of Natural Gas (selected countries)

Country	Consumption of Natural Gas*	Production of Natural Gas*
The USA	588.9	500.0
The UK	86.1	97.3
Russia	7.1	0.4
The UAE	30.0	35.9
Australia	19.1	28.0
Japan	68.6	0
New Zealand	4.9	5.1
South Korea	18.9	0
China	24.3	25.0

\* In millions of tonnes; figures for 2012