

To the Student

In *FOCUS on Comparing and Contrasting, Book C*, you will read passages and answer questions. You will practise using the reading strategy called Comparing and Contrasting. You will learn about the strategy on the Learn About pages. You will see a sample passage, sample questions and sample answer choices on the Lesson Preview pages. Then you will practise using the strategy in twenty lessons.

Each lesson has a passage and five questions. After you finish reading the passage, answer the five questions. For the first four questions, fill in the correct answers on the Answer Form on page 53. Or, you may fill in the correct answers directly on the page. For the fifth question, write the answer on the lines provided on the page. Fill in the circle on the Answer Form to show that you have completed the fifth question.

Use the Tracking Chart on page 47 to show when you have finished each lesson and to show the number of questions that you answered correctly. After each group of five lessons, you will complete a self-assessment to see how you are doing.

So . . . FOCUS and enjoy!

Acknowledgments

Product Development

Project Developer and Editor: Dale Lyle
Writer: Jo Pitkin
Reviewer: Mary McNary

Design and Production

Project Designer: Susan Hawk
Designer and Illustrator: Pat Lucas
Photo Credits: Page 38, Rob Tudor (left),
National Library of Australia (right).

Originally published by

CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES®, INC.

Published in Australia by

hawker brownlow.
publishing

PO Box 40, Southland Centre, Vic 3192

Phone: (03) 8518 6600

Website: www.hawkerbrownlow.com

Email: orders@hawkerbrownlow.com

© 2006 Curriculum Associates, Inc.

© 2023 Hawker Brownlow Publishing

Printed in Australia

Code: CA10143

ISBN: 978 1 923147 70 6

1223

HBP edition

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Learn About

Comparing and Contrasting

Comparing and contrasting is finding out how things are *alike* or *different*. Comparing is finding how things are alike. Contrasting is finding how things are different.

Two or more people, places, objects or events can be compared and contrasted.

When you read a passage, think about the people, places, objects or events that you read about. Ask yourself, “How are they similar or alike? How are they different?”

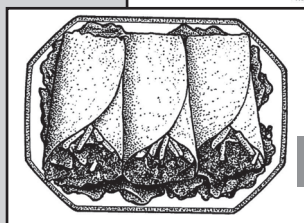
Read this paragraph to find out how two foods are alike and different.

Have you ever had a taco?
Have you ever had a burrito?
Tacos and burritos *both* have tasty fillings. Tacos have a corn wrapping around the filling.
Unlike tacos, burritos have a flour wrapping around the filling. If you can't decide which you'd like to try, try both!

Tacos



Burritos



	Taco	Burrito
Alike	tasty filling	tasty filling
Different	corn wrapping	flour wrapping

Compare the two foods in the paragraph. Think about how the foods are alike. Ask yourself, “How are tacos and burritos alike?”

Both tacos and burritos have tasty fillings.

Contrast the two foods in the paragraph. Think about how they are different. Ask yourself, “How are tacos and burritos different?”

Clue words can signal comparisons and contrasts in what you read.

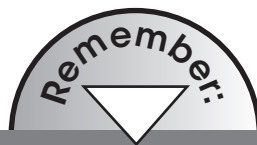
For comparisons, look for clue words that signal how things are alike. The words *same*, *both*, *like*, *alike* and *also* signal ways in which things are similar, or alike.

For contrasts, look for clue words that signal how things are different. The words *but*, *unlike*, *different* and *however* signal ways in which things are different.

Taco wrappings are made of corn. Burrito wrappings are made of flour.

What two clue words are used in the paragraph about tacos and burritos? The clue words *both* and *unlike* are used.

If you don't see clue words, think about how things are alike or different.



Remember that comparing is finding how things are alike. Contrasting is finding how things are different.

Lesson

Preview

Read this sample passage about two kinds of cloth. As you read, think about the ways in which silk and wool are alike. Think about the ways in which they are different. Look for clue words.



Silk and wool are alike in some ways. Both are kinds of cloth. Both were discovered thousands of years ago. Both come from nature because they are made from materials that come from animals.

Insects called silkworms are raised on silk farms. The silkworms produce silk thread. Workers collect the threads from the silkworms. Then workers in a factory clean, twist and dye the threads. This raw silk is shipped to a mill. There, the silk threads are woven on machines called power looms.

Silk thread is strong, smooth and shiny. It is the strongest of all natural threads. Silk is used to make skirts, shirts, dresses and scarves.

Silk was discovered in China. The Chinese carefully guarded the secret of how to make silk for three thousand years. Today most raw silk comes from China and Japan.

Unlike silk, wool comes from sheep. On a sheep farm, shearers clip off the animals' soft fleece, or woolly coat. Then the wool is shipped to a mill. At the mill, it is cleaned, combed and spun. Like silk threads, spun wool is dyed and then woven on power looms.

Silk is very light and cool, but wool is heavy and warm. Wool keeps out the cold, so it is often used to make sweaters, coats, blankets and socks. Most wool produced today comes from Australia and New Zealand.

1. What is one way that silk and wool threads are alike?

- Ⓐ Both are made by silkworms.
- Ⓑ Both come from sheep.
- Ⓒ Both were discovered in China.
- Ⓓ Both come from nature.

2. What is one way that silk and wool are different?

- Ⓐ Silk is made by sheep, but wool comes from silkworms.
- Ⓑ Silk is made by silkworms, but wool comes from sheep.
- Ⓒ Silk is heavy and warm, but wool is light and cool.
- Ⓓ Silk comes from animals, but wool comes from a machine.

*Look at the answer choices for each question.
Read why each answer choice is correct
or not correct.*

1. What is one way that silk and wool threads are alike?

- Ⓐ Both are made by silkworms.

This answer is not correct because silk is made by silkworms, but wool comes from sheep.

- Ⓑ Both come from sheep.

This answer is not correct because wool comes from sheep, but silk comes from silkworms.

- Ⓒ Both were discovered in China.

This answer is not correct because the passage states only that silk was discovered in China. It doesn't say where wool was discovered.

- Both come from nature.

This answer is correct because both silk and wool come from nature, as they are both from materials made by animals.

2. What is one way that silk and wool are different?

- Ⓐ Silk is made by sheep, but wool comes from silkworms.

This answer is not correct because the passage states the opposite. It says that silk is made by silkworms, but wool comes from sheep.

- Silk is made by silkworms, but wool comes from sheep.

This answer is correct because the passage states that silk is made by silkworms, and wool comes from sheep.

- Ⓒ Silk is heavy and warm, but wool is light and cool.

This answer is not correct because the passage states the opposite. It says that silk is light and cool, but wool is heavy and warm.

- Ⓓ Silk comes from animals, but wool comes from a machine.

This answer is not correct because both silk and wool come from animals. Although wool is woven on a machine, the wool itself comes from animals, sheep.

Lesson 1

Read this story about two volleyball teams. As you read, ask yourself, "How are the two teams alike? How are the two teams different?" Look for clue words.

Spike!



Two teams jog onto the volleyball court. There are six Tigers in bright yellow T-shirts and shorts and six Lions in brown T-shirts and shorts. Liz and Jess, the best players for the Tigers, warm up. Liz stretches her sore leg muscles, while Jess practises serves. "This is the championship!" says Liz.

The Tigers stride to one side of the net, and each player takes a position. Jess stands on the far right side directly behind the net. Liz stands behind her to serve.

On the other side of the net, the Lions also take their positions. Their uniforms are brown, like bark, and the players look like two rows of trees. The teams are ready to start the game.

Liz serves the ball, throwing it in the air and smacking it forcefully with her hand. Skillfully, the Lions pass the ball, set it and spike it over the net. But Jess blocks the ball. After Jess's teammate Jane spikes it, the ball crashes sharply onto the gym floor on the Lions' side of the net.

"Good job!" yells Coach Brown.

The Tigers score a point, and the crowd whoops excitedly. The score is one to zero. Since the Tigers have scored, it's still their turn to serve.

Liz serves again. This time she serves out of bounds, so the Lions get the ball. The players on each team rotate to change their positions.

A tall, thin girl gets ready to serve for the Lions. She fixes her ponytail elastic. Then she smacks the ball as hard as she can.

"*Ammh*," cries Jess as the white leather ball sails over her head.

"Don't worry, Jess. You'll get the next one," Jane calls out.

Both teams have good players who can dive and roll, block shots and pass the ball as if it were as light as a feather. During the spirited game, both teams score thirteen points.

With the score tied, fans for the Tigers and the Lions cheer wildly and stomp their feet on the gym floor. Liz again serves the ball with determination. This time, it flies cleanly over the tall net.

The centre back of the Lions keeps running but can't reach the ball. The ball bounces right into the Lions' court. The Tigers score a point. They win!

Answer these questions about the story.

1. How were the Tigers and the Lions alike?

- Ⓐ Both teams scored ten points.
- Ⓑ Both teams wore brown uniforms.
- Ⓒ Both teams played volleyball.
- Ⓓ Both teams won the championship.

3. Both the Lions and the Tigers had

- Ⓐ loyal fans.
- Ⓑ hurt players.
- Ⓒ angry coaches.
- Ⓓ poor equipment.

2. The uniforms of the Tigers were bright yellow. What colour were the uniforms of the Lions?

- Ⓐ brown
- Ⓑ red
- Ⓒ white
- Ⓓ bright yellow, too

4. How were the Tigers different from the Lions?

- Ⓐ The Tigers had fewer than six players.
- Ⓑ The Tigers had more than six players.
- Ⓒ The Tigers won the championship.
- Ⓓ The Tigers lost the championship.

5. In your opinion, which Tigers player helped the team the most to win the championship? Use a clue word.
