

Spatial Organization, Comparing Objects, and Comparing Characters

Spatial organization explains how things are physically located compared to other things. To provide you with a demonstration of how spatial organization words are helpful, here is a paragraph that describes a food closet (pantry) that you have never seen before. Does this paragraph give you a good visual picture of what the pantry looks like? Can you see how items are physically related to each other by visualizing where they are located?

The pantry contains many different kinds of food placed on shelves. There is sugar and salt. Of course there are many canned goods, bottled water, and juices. Dried pasta is present as well as jars of pasta sauce. Of course there also are other things like muffins and other treats inside. Most of this food is placed on numerous shelves, but some of it is sitting on the floor.

Does the above paragraph give you an idea of what the pantry looks like? Can you tell the size of the pantry, or how exactly the food is situated within the pantry? Is there any way to make the above paragraph provide a better visual image for the viewer? Yes, we could have used spatial organization transitional words to provide someone with a better visual image.

Spatial organization transitional words are used to tell the location of one object by referring to another object. The table on the next page contains a small sample of spatial organization transitional words and phrases. Almost any word that can be used to tell where an object is located compared to something else can be used as a spatial organization transitional word. These words can also be used together (with each other) to form spatial organization transitional phrases.

above	before	beneath	here	nearby	other side of
through	on	onto	around	up	outside of
across	below	behind	in	next to	there
adjacent to	beneath	beyond	inside	close to	to the left of
among	beside	by	into	opposite	to the right of
at that point	between	down	near	over	under
against	on top of	underneath	in between	attached to	to the side of

We will now attempt to provide a better visual image to the previous paragraph by adding appropriate spatial organization transitional words.

After opening the door to the pantry, which measures five feet by five feet, there are five shelves spaced evenly apart, one above the other. On the lowest shelf, heavier items have been placed. The sugar is to the left, and the flour is situated to the right of it. On the next shelf up there are many canned goods which cover that entire shelf. On the next shelf above that, many different varieties of bottled water and juices are present. The next shelf up contains assorted types of dried pasta which are stacked in rows next to each other. On the shelf above the pasta are jars of pasta sauce pushed to the left of the shelf. On that same shelf are foods like muffins and other treats. There are also some larger bottles of water sitting on the floor under the lowest shelf.

Of course this paragraph is a bit longer than the first paragraph without spatial organization transitional words, but it clearly does a better job of providing the viewer a better visual picture of the layout of the pantry.

A. Go back and underline the spatial organization transitional words in the paragraph above.

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A. Answer the questions below with the spatial organization transitional words. Try to think of spatial organization transitional words or phrases on your own. If you get stuck you can look at the table from Day 1. Regardless of where you find them, use each spatial organization transitional word only once.

1. Crystal's room key was _____ her purse.
2. Daniel stood _____ the rest of the group.
3. The chairs were _____ the table.
4. The blanket was folded and _____ the drawer.
5. Candy's new car is parked _____ our house.
6. The rain fell _____ our state.
7. Sandy sat _____ the famous movie star.
8. They lived on the _____ side of town.
9. _____ the car were her friends.
10. The arrow soared _____ the middle of the bull's eye.
11. The sharp dart landed _____ John's feet.
12. The letter was _____ the envelope.
13. The paper was hard to see because it slipped _____ the wall and the refrigerator.
14. Donna lives _____ me.

Spatial Organization, Comparing Objects, and Comparing Characters

There are two ways to organize a writing that compares two or more objects. The first way is called a **whole-to-whole comparison**. When performing a whole-to-whole comparison, the writer first says all he wants about the first object being compared, and then does the same, one at a time, for each remaining object to be compared.

For example, if we were comparing a **car** and a **truck**, our writing might look like this:

A truck is a heavy-duty vehicle that is designed to carry heavy loads. The truck's frame is made from thick steel which allows it to accomplish punishing jobs such as plowing snow or pulling out old tree stumps from the ground. A truck also has a cargo area for holding items. This cargo area can usually hold a lot of weight and a large volume of items. A truck usually has space for two to three occupants inside the passenger compartment.

A car is a light-duty vehicle that is not designed to carry heavy loads. As a result, most cars do not even have full frames. A car is suited more for the comfort of its occupants. Cars usually have a small trunk that can hold a few items necessary for travel. Cars usually have room for four to six passengers

It is very easy to see that the writer of the above paragraphs first said all he wanted to say about trucks and then cars.

The second way to compare two or more objects is called a **part-to-part comparison**. With this type of comparison the writer compares a single characteristic or feature at a time for all objects being compared. If we were performing a part-to-part comparison, our writing would look as follows:

A truck is a heavy-duty vehicle that is designed to carry heavy loads, whereas a car is suited more for the comfort of its occupants. The truck's frame is made from thick steel which allows it to accomplish punishing jobs such as plowing snow or pulling out old tree stumps from the ground. A car is a light duty vehicle that is not designed to carry heavy loads. As a result, most cars do not even have full frames.

A truck also has a cargo area for holding items. This cargo area can usually hold a lot of weight and a large volume of items. Cars usually have a small trunk that can hold a few items necessary for travel. A truck usually has space for two to three occupants inside the passenger compartment. Cars usually have room for four to six passengers

- A. Write a three paragraph **part-to-part comparison** between a **tent** and a **camping trailer**. You do not have perform outlining for this exercise. You also do not have to write an introductory or concluding paragraphs for this lesson.

Lesson 7
Day 5

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On Day 4 of this lesson we learned how to compare objects by using whole-to-whole or part-to-part comparisons. The very same methods can be used to compare **characters** from a book or other performance (movie, play, opera, and so on). Sometimes comparing characters from the same or different books or performances can help the reader better understand the book or performance.

What types of things can you compare about two characters? How do the characters vary in the thoughts they have, their roles in the performance, where they live, how they dress, good traits, bad traits, and so on? Anywhere the two characters have similarities or differences is appropriate for comparison.

- A. Think of two characters you have read about or have seen in a performance such as a movie or play. Write a one paragraph **whole-to-whole comparison** between the two characters.
