

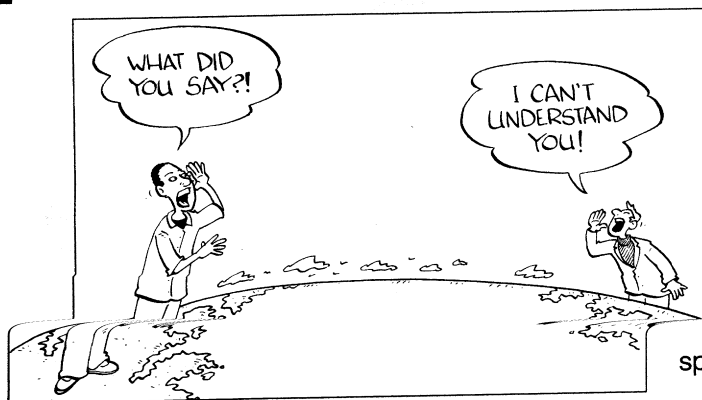
Sentence Structure

Just as there are signal words and phrases that help your reader understand time order, there are also words and phrases that help your reader understand similarities and differences. As you read the following model, see if you can find these comparison/contrast signals.

MODEL

Comparison/
Contrast Signals

Two Varieties of English



¹Although U.S. English and British English are mutually understandable languages, there are quite a few differences.

²One difference is

spelling. ³Some words are spelled one way in

the United States but *spelt* another way in Great Britain. ⁴A person goes to a ~~British theatre~~ ^{in a U.S. theater}. ⁵In U.S. schools, students *theorize*, *analyze*, and *socialize*, whereas British students *theorise*, *analyse*, and *socialise*. ⁶A second area of difference is vocabulary. ⁷For example, the word *college* names two very different types of schools in the United States and Great Britain — university level in the United States and pre-university level in Great Britain. ⁸Also, British university students live in *halls* on campus and in *flats* off campus, but U.S. students live in dormitories on campus and in apartments off campus. ⁹Finally, there are many differences in pronunciation. ¹⁰In Great Britain, the sound of a in the words *path*, *laugh*, *aunt*, *plant*, and *dance* is like the a in *father*. ¹¹In the United States, in contrast, the a sound in the words is like the a in *cat*. ¹²All in all, though there are differences between the English spoken in the United States and the English spoken in the British Isles, we understand each other most of the time!

Questions on the Model

1. Underline the topic sentence. Does it indicate that the paragraph will discuss mostly similarities or mostly differences?
2. What comparison and contrast signals can you find? Circle them.
3. What other transition signals can you find? Put a box around them.
4. The model uses block organization. What pattern of organization does the writer use within the block? *Hint*: Look at the boxed transition signals.

4b. *Equally* is an adverb. It describes an adjective (*crowded*). An adverb can also describe a verb or another adverb.

Tokyo and New York City are **equally** crowded.

5. Paired conjunctions are always used together. Notice that the word that comes after the second conjunction must be the same part of speech (noun, verb, prepositional phrase, etc.) as the word that comes after the first conjunction. This is an important rule in English and is called the rule of **parallelism**.

The two cities are **both** trendy **and** hip.

The two cities are **not only** trendy **but also** hip.

RIGHT

The two cities are both **trendy** (*adjective*) and **hip**. (*adjective*)

WRONG

The two cities are both **noisy** (*adjective*) and **have too many people**. (*verb phrase*)

Both **New York City** and **Tokyo** have outstanding international restaurants. (*nouns*)

Tokyoites and New Yorkers can both **eat** and **drink** in any kind of restaurant. (*verbs*)

The two cities have both **positive** and **negative** features. (*adjectives*)

Not only **Tokyoites** but also **New Yorkers** dress fashionably. (*nouns*)

You can see joggers not only **in Central Park** but also **in Hibiya Park**. (*prepositional phrases*)

PRACTICE 1

Comparison Signals

- A. Circle all the comparison signals in the model paragraph “Miller Medical Labs Memorandum” on page 110.
- B. Complete the following sentences. Be sure to follow the rule of parallelism.
- Both in Tokyo and in New York City the art museums display many famous masterpieces.
 - Both overcrowded subways and _____ are problems in Tokyo and New York City.
 - You can buy designer clothes not only in boutiques but also _____.
 - New Yorkers and Tokyoites can not only see a movie but can also _____ at any time.
 - In the summer, the weather in Tokyo and in New York is both hot and _____.
 - The Ginza and Fifth Avenue shopping districts have both fine jewelry stores and _____.