



Using Conjunctions to Compare & Contrast

Vocabulary development through articulating relationships between words and concepts

Suggested Time: 15 minutes

Student Tasks:

- Ensure basic understanding of vocabulary words
- Compare and contrast words with a partner
- Add to partner responses

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Vocabulary for Core Lessons

Rationale/Research Base

Using Conjunctions to Compare & Contrast is a discussion-based strategy to encourage learners to think critically about language. They consider factors such as connotations, usage contexts, and shades of meaning, developing advanced cognitive and analytical skills.

Optimal Application Notes:

Choose pairs of words for students to use. These words should be related in meaning or theme but have distinct nuances or differences. Group students in pairs.

Before:

- Ensure students have a basic understanding of each word's meaning.
- Designate an "A" and a "B" student in each pair (to structure taking turns speaking and listening).

During:

- Ask students: How are Word A and Word B both similar and different?
- Student A is given 30 seconds to explain as many similarities and differences using "and" and "but" in the explanation. For example, "Anger **and** happiness are both emotions a person can have, **but** anger is a negative emotion while happiness is a positive one."
- After 30 seconds, Student B is given the opportunity to add to Student A's response.
- After each pair completes the first set of words, students are encouraged to try the next set.
- Allow time for participants to make note of the pairs of words that were difficult for them to express.
- Encourage them to be creative with their responses.

Guidelines:

- Provide a countdown clock for students to gauge how long they're able to speak about the provided words.
- Teachers should check in with students frequently. If students are silent, this informs teachers of their lack of conceptual understanding of the words. Reteaching might be necessary.
- Encourage students to continue speaking until the time runs out, if possible.
- Have students use the same approach in written pieces to develop their use of effective expression.

Assemble and View:

- Once everyone is finished discussing each pair of words, have participants share some of their comparisons with the larger group. Discuss interesting responses.
- Ask students to discuss which pairs were more difficult than others and why.

Wrap it Up!:

- Wrap up the exercise by highlighting interesting comparisons and contrasts. Discuss how this exercise requires active cognitive engagement and can extend participants' knowledge of vocabulary and language.
- Using this activity as a vocabulary exercise provides an opportunity for students to engage in dialogue and encourages learners to incorporate new words into their communication. This practical application enhances retention and strengthens the integration of new vocabulary into their language skills.

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Provide opportunity for students to engage in the activity with familiar terms prior to new vocabulary to get used to the expectations.
- Model and example of a quality response.
- Provide pairs with one new vocabulary term matched with a term that is already in the students' knowledge base to work on one word at a time.

Using Conjunctions to Compare & Contrast

Instructions: Deepen your understanding and mastery of vocabulary words by comparing and contrasting their meanings and usage.

Review and Brainstorm:

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and parts of speech. Make sure you understand the meaning of each word.
- Take a moment to brainstorm similarities and differences between the terms. What do they have in common? How are they different?

Guidelines for Using Conjunctions to Compare and Contrast:

- **Select Conjunctions:** Choose appropriate conjunctions to express the comparisons or contrasts. For example, "Anger and happiness are both emotions a person can have, but anger is a negative emotion while happiness is a positive one."
- **Construct Sentences:** You will be given 30 seconds to explain as many similarities and differences to your partner using "and" and "but" in the explanation. Use the selected conjunctions to create sentences that clearly articulate the comparisons and contrasts between the terms.
- **Partner Roles:** As your partner is speaking, listen carefully to their response. Keep in mind the comparisons and contrasts they use so that when it's your turn, you can try to think of alternative ways to respond.
- **Revise:** Revise as needed to improve the flow and precision of your comparisons and contrasts.

Extension Activity (Optional)

- Practice using conjunctions to compare and contrast in various contexts, such as writing assignments, discussions, or presentations. This will help solidify your understanding and application of the strategy.

Using Conjunctions to Compare & Contrast

3rd – 5th

Instructions: Improve your understanding of new vocabulary words by looking at how they're the same and different. We'll compare and contrast pairs of words to understand them even better.

Review and Brainstorm:

- Think about the new words you've learned, what they mean, and what type of word they are (like a noun, verb, or adjective).
- Take some time to brainstorm how the two words are similar and different. What do they have in common? How are they different?

Guidelines for Using Conjunctions to Compare and Contrast:

- **Select Conjunctions:** Choose appropriate conjunctions to explain the comparisons or contrasts. For example, "Anger **and** happiness are both emotions a person can have, **but** anger is a negative emotion while happiness is a positive one."
- **Create Sentences:** You will be given 30 seconds to explain as many similarities and differences to your partner using "and" and "but" in the explanation. Use the conjunctions to create sentences that clearly show the comparisons and contrasts between the terms.
- **Partner Roles:** As your partner is speaking, listen carefully to their response. Keep in mind the comparisons and contrasts they use so that, when it's your turn, you can try to think of different ways to respond.
- **Revise:** Make your comparisons and contrasts even better by revising them to sound just right and to be very clear on meaning.

Extension Activity (Optional)

- Practice using conjunctions to compare and contrast in different ways, such as writing assignments, discussions, or presentations. This will help increase your understanding of the words.