

# Using language to compare and contrast

- The language of **comparison** expresses the **similarities** between things, conveying how, or to what degree, they are similar.
- The language of **contrast** expresses the **differences** between things, conveying how, or to what degree, they are different.

*Conjunctions* and *connectives* are linking words used to convey similarities and differences by joining ideas in logical relationships.

## Key linking words commonly used to express **comparison** include:

like	similar	likewise	as
same	comparable	in the same way	too
both	have in common	comparable	the same as
similarly	as well as	also	

## Key linking words commonly used to express **contrast** include:

although	yet	in contrast	whereas
however	but	while	differ
instead	conversely	unlike	on the contrary
contrary to	even though	on the other hand	the reverse

Comparison can also be expressed through *comparing adjectives*, referred to as *comparatives* and *superlatives*.

## Examples of comparing adjectives used to express comparison include:

Comparative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>more, less, worse, better</li> <li>add 'er' to the adjective: clear → clearer, simple → simpler, few → fewer, high → higher, deep → deeper, hot → hotter</li> <li>add 'ier' to words ending in 'y': silly → sillier</li> </ul>
Superlative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most, least, worst, best,</li> <li>add 'est' to the adjective: clear → clearest, simple → simplest, few → fewest, high → highest, deep → deepest, hot → hottest</li> <li>add 'iest' to words ending in 'y': silly → silliest</li> </ul>

Degrees of comparison and contrast can also be expressed through choices in *modality*.

## Examples of modal words used to express degrees of similarity and difference include:

very	likely	definitely	usually
generally	almost	marginally	slightly
essentially	must	nearly	approximately