

# **Comparisons and Contrast**

**Express similarity and difference  
(dissimilarity)**

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2023-2024**

# Comparisons

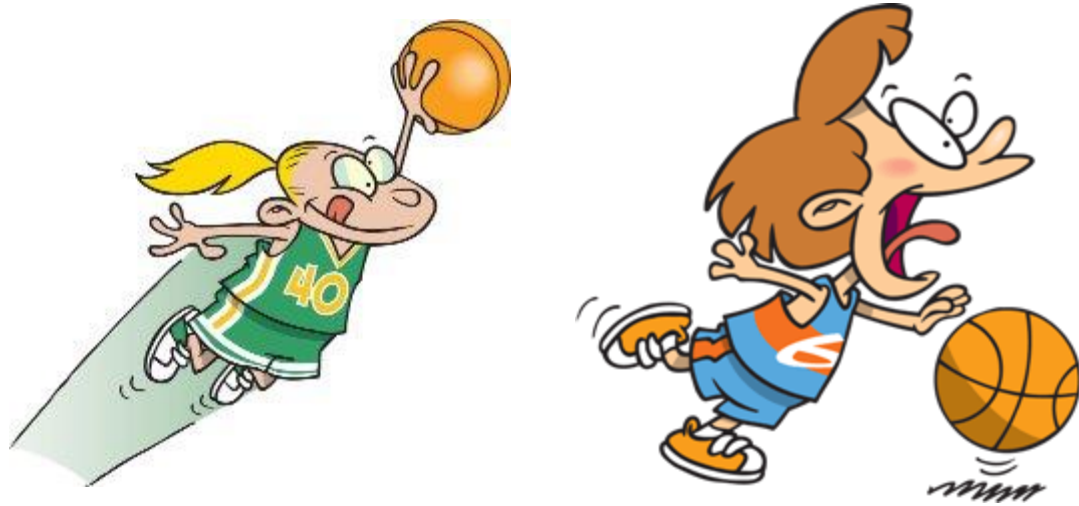
- ▶ To **compare** is to tell how two or more things are **similar** or the **same**.



- ▶ The men all have blue shirts and red vests.  
The men are all wearing brown hats.  
The men all have mustaches.

# Comparisons

- ▶ Read this paragraph that uses **comparison** words and phrases



- ▶ Lisa and Janet have many things **in common**. They are very **similar**. They are **both** good athletes. Lisa likes to play basketball. Janet **also** likes to play basketball. Lisa has a dog, and Janet has a dog **too**. Janet enjoys playing piano. **Similarly**, Lisa also studies piano. Lisa has three brothers. Janet has three brothers **as well**.



# Comparisons

- ▶ You can use these words and phrases to **compare** (tell similarities):
- ▶ also
- ▶ as well as
- ▶ both
- ▶ in common
- ▶ in comparison
- ▶ like
- ▶ too
- ▶ same as
- ▶ similar
- ▶ similarly

# Contrast

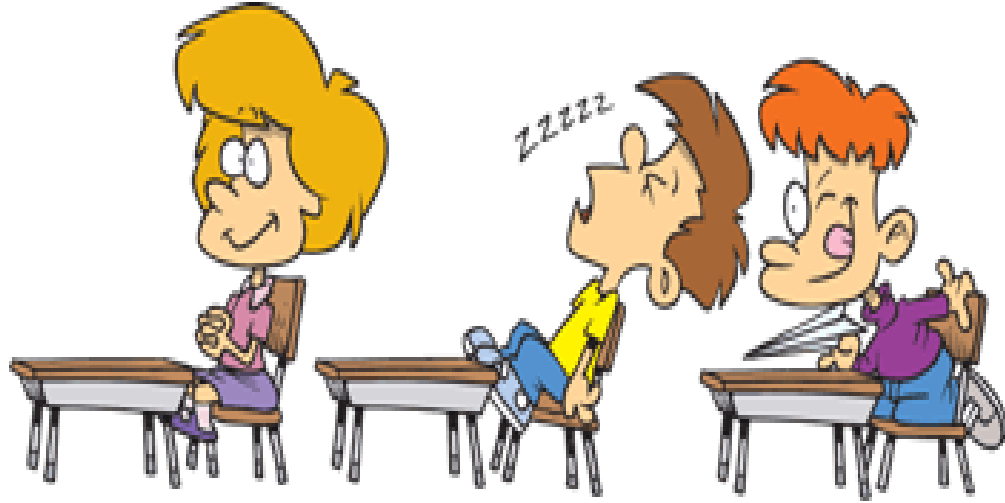
- ▶ To **contrast** is to tell how two or more things are **different**.



- ▶ Three people are taller than the others.  
Two people are shorter than the others.  
Only one person has blond hair.  
Only one man has red hair.  
There are three women but only two men

# Contrast

- ▶ Read this paragraph that uses **contrasting** words and phrases.



- ▶ Mrs. Smith has three children. They are each **different**. Tommy and John are the boys. Tommy likes to be outside and play baseball or football. John is **different from** Tommy because he enjoys staying inside playing video games. **On the other hand**, Mary does not like baseball, football, or video games. Mary enjoys studying and reading. The two boys have birthdays in December, **while** Mary's birthday is in July. Mary loves chocolate ice cream, **but** Tommy loves vanilla ice cream. John is **unlike** the other two because he doesn't even like ice cream!

# Contrast

- ▶ You can use these words or phrases to **contrast** (tell differences):
- ▶ as opposed to
- ▶ but
- ▶ contrary to
- ▶ differ
- ▶ different from
- ▶ however
- ▶ on the other hand
- ▶ unlike
- ▶ while

# Compare and contrast in English

- ▶ This paragraph **compares** and **contrasts** the American Flag and the British Flag. The comparison words and phrases are **red**. The **contrasting** words and phrases are **blue**.



- ▶ The American Flag and the British Flag are **similar** in some ways. They have the same colors: blue, red, and white. They are **also** the same size. **However**, the American Flag **differs** from the British Flag because the American Flag has 50 stars. The American Flag has 13 red and white stripes and a blue square and stars in the corner. **Contrary to** the American Flag, the British Flag has a red cross on a white field with the Union Flag in the background.





# Words for similarity and difference

| SIMILARITY  | DIFFERENCE  |
|---|---|
| Similarity is expressed with <b>similar and similarly</b> . Sameness is expressed with <b>the same, alike</b> . | Dissimilarity is expressed with <b>different, unlike, not alike, dissimilar, differently</b> .                              |
| The apples are <b>the same</b> . (NP)<br><br>(different pieces of fruit but same taste and color)               | The apple and the orange are <b>different</b> . (Adj)<br><br>(speaking in general; "the" = <a href="#">classification</a> ) |
| These apples are <b>alike</b> . (Adj)   | The apple and the orange are <b>unlike / not alike</b> . (Adj)  |
| The apples are <b>similar</b> . (Adj)   | The apple and the orange are <b>dissimilar</b> . (Adj)  |
| The apples ripen <b>similarly</b> . (Adv)   | The apple and the orange grow <b>differently</b> . (Adv)  |
| This apple is <b>like that apple</b> . (PP)   | The apple is <b>unlike the orange</b> . (P)   |

## "Word Categories" or "Parts of Speech"

**N** - noun / pronoun; **NP** - noun phrase (the girls, the little girl, the girl who won)

**V** - verb; **VP** - verb phrase (enjoys very much, hardly ever rests)

**Adj** - adjective; **AdjP** - adjective phrase (really sharp, rather expensive)

**Adv** - adverb; **AdvP** - adverb phrase (very slowly, much too quickly)

**P** - preposition; **PP** - prepositional phrase

# Expressions for Similarity and Difference

| SIMILARITY  | DIFFERENCE   |
|---|--|
| Similarity (near equality) is expressed with <i>as...as</i> , <i>the same...as</i> , <i>like</i> , <i>similar to</i> , <i>both X and Y are</i> and other expressions. | Dissimilarity (inequality) is expressed with <i>not as...as</i> , <i>different...from/than</i> , <i>unlike</i> , <i>unequal</i> , <i>unsimilar</i> and others. |
| This apple is <b>as</b> red <b>as</b> that apple (is). <i>nearly alike</i>  | The apple is <b>different from/ than</b> <i>the orange</i> .   |
| This apple has <b>the same</b> flavor <b>as</b> that apple (has). <i>alike</i>  | This apple is <b>not as</b> sweet <b>as</b> <i>this orange</i> .   |
| This apple and the other apples are <b>the same</b> .<br>( <i>similar in color, taste, or appearance not the same item</i> )  | The apple is <b>more</b> beautiful <b>than</b> <i>the orange</i> .   |
| This apple <b>looks like</b> that apple.  | The apple is <b>much more</b> beautiful <b>than</b> <i>the orange</i> .  |
| This apple is <b>similar to</b> that apple.   | The apple grows on a tree <b>unlike</b> <i>the tomato</i> .  |
| This apple is <b>like</b> that apple.   | The apple is <b>more like</b> a pear <b>than</b> <i>the orange</i> .   |
| This apple is <b>just the same as</b> that apple.   | The skin of the apple <b>contrasts to</b> <i>the skin of the orange</i> .  |
| <b>Both</b> this apple <b>and</b> that one are sweet.   | The orange <b>in contrast to</b> <i>the lemon</i> is sweet.  |
| <b>Neither</b> this apple <b>nor</b> that apple <b>is</b> sweet.  | The orange is sweet <b>in contrast to</b> <i>the lemon which is bitter</i> .   |

# Expressions for Similarity and Difference

- ▶ The comparative *as...as* expresses that two items have equivalent aspects (color, size, shape, taste, etc.). The first *as* modifies the quality (Adj) or manner (Adv) of the item being compared. The second *as* is a [connective preposition](#) which is followed by a noun or a clause. If it is a clause, it is shortened to just the subject and the auxiliary form of the verb.
- ▶ The paired expression *the same...as* expresses that two items are equal (but not necessarily the exact same item) –*the same* is followed by a noun such as size, weight, color (a measurable or comparable standard). The second *as* is a [connective preposition](#) which is followed by a noun or a clause. If it is a clause, it is shortened to just the subject and the auxiliary form of the verb.
- ▶ The expression *like* expresses "in a similar way" (*sounds like, seems like, looks like*). In traditional grammar, it is followed by a noun phrase [*like* + NP] only. That is, using *like* + clause is considered informal. However, language usage dating back to the 14th century and current usage does not support this rule. In linguistic description, *like* is a preposition that accepts a noun, a noun phrase or a clause as its complement. (*Your apple looks like mine* (N); *Your apple looks like the one that I am holding* (NP); *Your apple looks like it fell on the floor* (Cl)). See [Like vs. As](#) and [Grammar Notes](#) for resources on this subject

# Connective adverbs for similarity and difference

| SIMILARITY   | DIFFERENCE   |
|--|--|
| A transition word ( a <u>connective adverb</u> ) transitions the reader from the thought in one sentence to a <b>similar thought</b> in the next. The adverbial is an adverb (-ly, -wise) or a prepositional phrase. | These transition words, called connective adverbials, are used to relate the information in two clauses. The adverb relates to the entire clause rather than the verb within the clause. |
| This apple is tart. <b>Similarly</b> , this one is sour. ( <u>Connective</u> Adv)  | The apple is red. <b>In contrast</b> , the orange is orange. ( <u>Connective</u> PP)   |
| This apple is tart. <b>In the same way</b> , this one is sour. ( <u>Connective</u> PP)   | Some people think the apple is orange. <b>On the contrary</b> , the apple is red. <i>on the contrary = not true!</i> ( <u>Connective</u> PP)   |
| That orange is delicious. <b>Likewise</b> , this apple is very flavorful. ( <u>Connective</u> Adv)   | <b>While / Whereas</b> the orange is high in fiber, the apple is not. ( <u>Connective</u> PP)  |
| That orange is delicious. <b>Equally</b> , this apple is very flavorful. ( <u>Connective</u> Adv)  | The orange is high in fiber. <b>However</b> , the apple is not. ( <u>Connective</u> Adv)   |
| This orange is flavorful. <b>In a similar manner</b> , this apple is very tasty. ( <u>Connective</u> PP)   | <b>On the one hand</b> the lemon is high in fiber, <b>on the other hand</b> it is too bitter to eat. " <i>both sides of the coin</i> " ( <u>Connective</u> PP)                           |

# Comparing qualities of nouns

| -ER  | MORE   |
|--|--|
| Use the suffix <b>-er</b> with one syllable words to make a comparative word form with <b>than</b> . | Use the <b>more</b> with multiple-syllable words to make a comparative clause with <b>than</b> . |
| This apple is <b>better than that one</b> (is). (good - better)                                      | This apple is <b>more beautiful than that one</b> (is).  |
| This apple is <b>redder than the other one</b> (is). (red)   | This apple is <b>more flavorful than the other one</b> (is).                                     |



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JOE,  
140 cm  
tall



LUCY,  
150 cm  
tall



ANNE & JENNY,  
160 cm  
tall



BILL,  
170 cm  
tall





Joe is **SHORTER THAN** Lucy

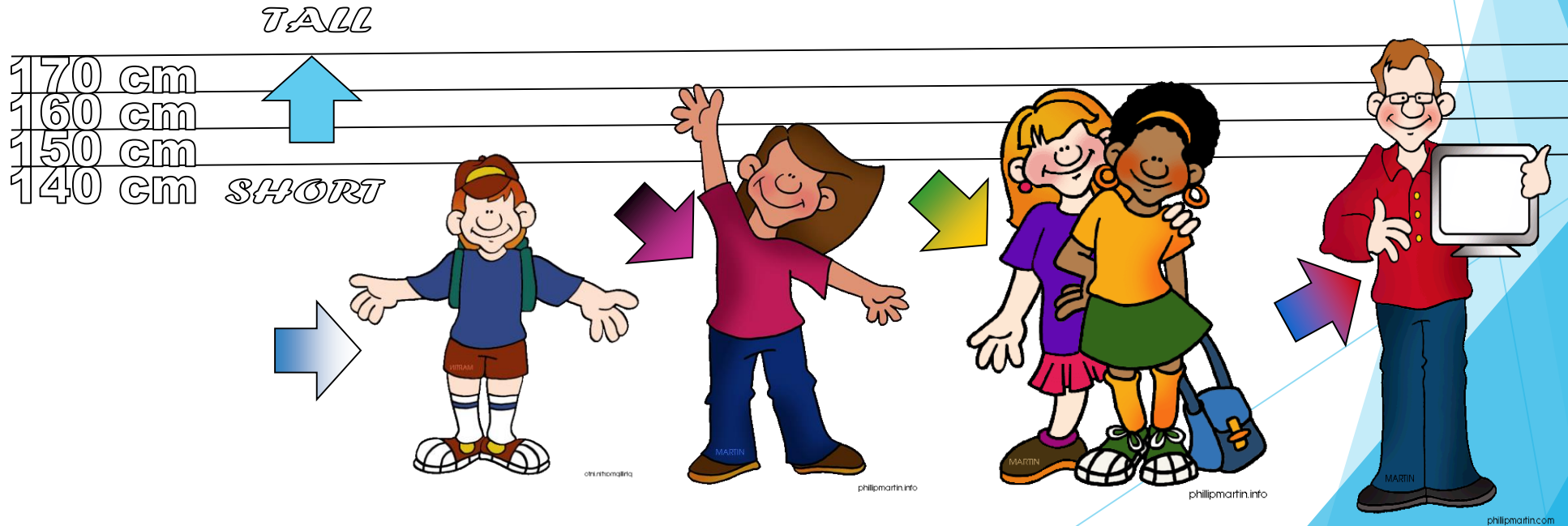
Joe is **NOT AS TALL AS** Lucy

Joe is **THE SHORTEST OF ALL**

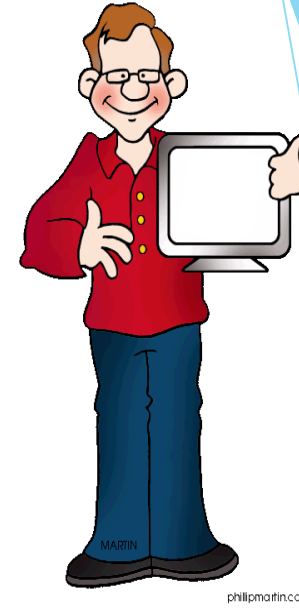
Lucy is **TALLER THAN** Joe

Jenny is **AS TALL AS** Anne

Bill is **THE TALLEST OF ALL**



*Joe is ...THAN Bill*



**OOPS!**

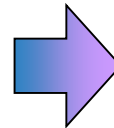


**TALL**

**OOPS!**



**TALLER**



**OK!**

**SHORTER**

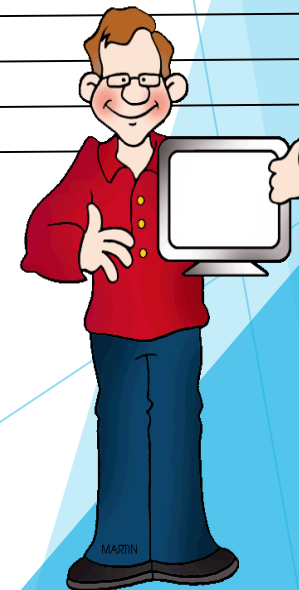


Jenny & Anne are not AS ...AS Bill

OK! TALLER ★ OOPS!  
OOPS!

★ TALL TALLEST ★

170 cm  
160 cm  
150 cm  
140 cm



Lucy is the ... girl in the house.

**OOPS!**      ★ **SHORTER**      **OK!**  
**OOPS!**

★ **TALLEST**

**SHORTEST** ★

170 cm  
160 cm  
150 cm  
140 cm



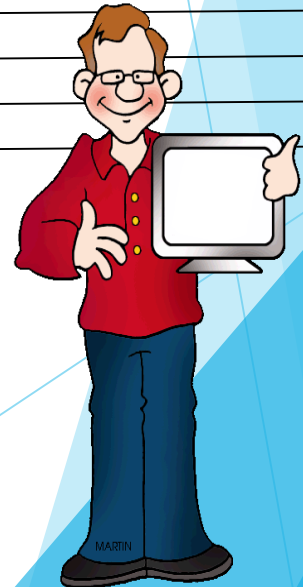
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Mark is ... than John

**OOPS!**



**OOPS!**



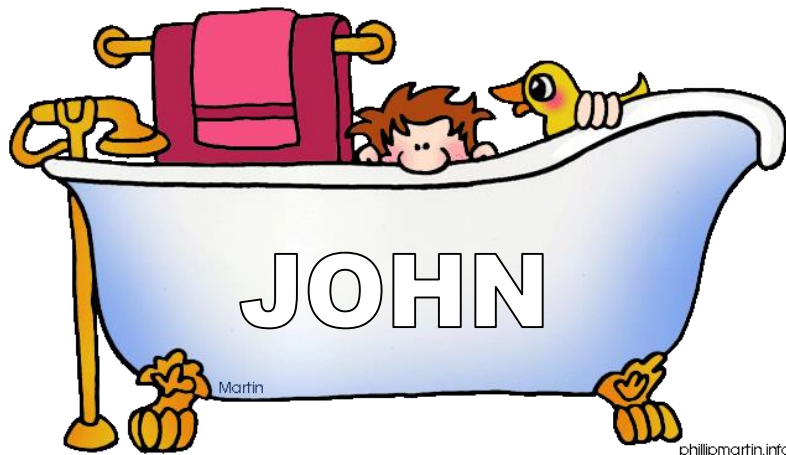
*dirtiest*

*dirtier*

**OK!**



*dirtiest*

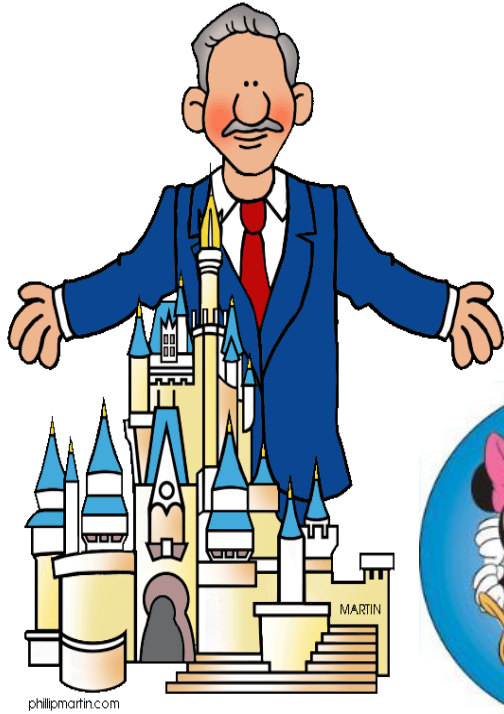


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*famouuser*

**OOPS!**

*Walt Disney*

*famousest*



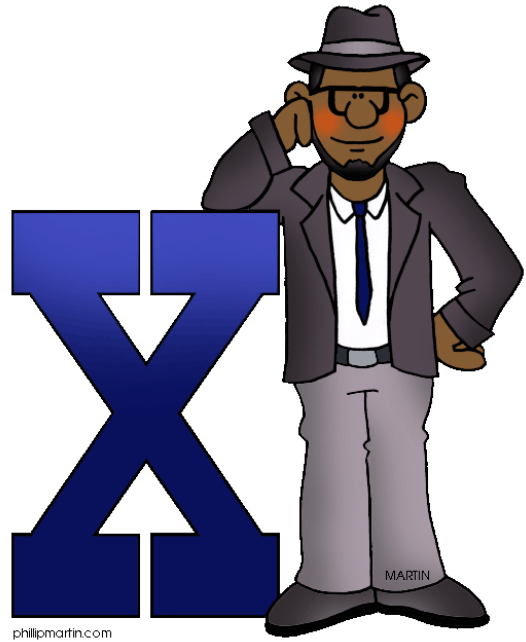
**OOPS!**

*is ... than Charles Schultz*



*more famous*

**OK!**



★  
*as influential*

*more influential*

★  
*influentialer*

**OK! OOPS! OOPS!**

*Malcom X wasn't ... as Martin Luther King*

*William Shakespeare is still the ... writer in the English-speaking world.*



*more Brilliant*  
**OOPS!**

*most Brilliant*



**OK!**



*as Brilliant*  
**OOPS!**



*Phillip Martin's clipart is ... of all!*

<http://www.phillipmartin.info/>



*the Better*

**OOPS!**

*the gooder*



**OOPS!**



*the Best*

**OK!**