

Trends and comparing/ contrasting

Similarities between trends phrases comparing/ contrasting version

What is the similarity between all the words and expressions in each section? (It could be in **meaning** when used to talk about trends, **original sources or meanings**, **grammar**, **connotation**, etc)

Useful language

Both of them/ All of them...

The (main/ chief/ most apparent/ most obvious/ sole/ only) similarity between them is...

They (could be said to) share...

They are similar with respect to/ in terms of/ when you look at...

They are similar/ linked/ related in that...

They have something/ one or two things/ many things/ much in common.

They resemble each other in that...

They share some features, for example.../ They share one feature, which is...

What links them/ unifies them/ ties them together is...

What they (most) have in common is...

Despite their (great/ important/ obvious) differences/ Although they have (great/ obvious/ important) differences, they are similar in so much as...

decline
fall

decrease
shrink

drop

grow rapidly
rocket

increase sharply
soar

rise dramatically
take off

crash
rocket

dive
soar

plummet
take off

be stable
remain steady

not vary
stay flat

remain constant
stay the same

bottom out
plateau

flatten out
stabilize

level off

expand

grow

shrink

collapse
plunge

crash
plummet

dive

boost
increase

cut
raise

hike
slash

doubled
increased more than fourfold

dropped by a third
tripled

halved

be unstable
fall back
pick up
regain lost ground

bounce back
fluctuate
rebound
slip back

dip
peak
recover

collapse
escalate

crash
slump

deteriorate
worsen

be enhanced
recover

bounce back
regain lost ground

improve

a blip
vary

change

move

dip
buoyant

dive

plunge

peak

plateau

climb

rise at the same rate

drop steadily

continue its (good) progress

accelerate

rise less rapidly

slow down

bottom out

flatten out

level off

boom

explode

Match these descriptions to the sections above, writing a brief note next to each thing above to remind you. Some fit in more than one place, but there is only one way to match all of them.

- Although they have obvious differences, all of them could refer to an upward or a downward trend, meaning you only know which one from the context.
- Both of them are related to explosions such as bombs.
- Despite their differences, all of them mean “fall very quickly”.
- The main similarity between them is meaning “become flat”.
- The most apparent similarity between them is a connection to mountains.
- The most obvious similarity between them is that they mean “go down”.
- The sole similarity between them is negative connotations, namely being the opposite of “get better”.
- They are similar in terms of all meaning straight diagonal lines on a graph.
- They are similar when you look at the shape of the line, which in these cases are curved.
- Their chief similarity between them is prepositions which mean “in the end”.
- They have something in common, being is a connection to water.
- They resemble each other in that they refer to going both up and down.
- They share a connection with flying.
- They share one feature, which is meaning “not change”.
- They share positive connotations, meaning “getting better”.
- What links them is being actions that people etc can do to change things.
- What they have in common is meaning “go up quickly”.
- What they most have in common is including numbers.
- What ties them together is a connection with physical size.

Compare your answers as a class but without looking at this page (to make you use the useful phrases).

Trends and comparing/ contrasting

Language of trends the same or different Comparing/ contrasting version

Use comparing and contrasting language to talk about how similar or different the words and expressions above below and what any differences are. Each time first say **how similar or different they are**, then **what the (main) differences are**. If there are more than two, they are all the same or all different. After your discussion, write an equals sign or an equals sign with a cross through it next to each line below.

Useful phrases

- They are (absolutely/ almost) identical.
- They are (exactly/ very nearly/ almost/ nearly/ practically/ basically/ fundamentally/ more or less) the same.
- They are (remarkably/ surprisingly/ really very/ very/ rather/ quite/ fairly) similar.
- They are (completely/ totally/ very/ clearly/ quite/ fairly/ slightly) different.
- ... is (far far/ far/ much/ a lot/ a great deal/ ... times/ considerably/ substantially/ quite a lot/ a little/ a bit/ slightly/ very slightly/ a tiny bit) ...er/ more.../ less... than...
- ...is (three times/ twice/ one and half times/ exactly/ very nearly/ almost/ nearly / three quarters/ half/ not quite/ not nearly) as... as ...
- The (biggest/ most important/ most significant/ most obvious/ clearest/ only/ sole) difference between... and... is...
- A (great/ slight/ minor) difference/ (An important/ obvious) difference between ... and... is...
- They are (complete/ almost complete/ almost) opposites.
- ..., whereas.../ ... However,.../ ... In (complete/ total) contrast,...
- Unlike...,...

Verbs

expand/ grow

raise/ rise

rise/ rise up

grow/ grow up

increase/ go up

increase/ improve

rocket/ soar/ take off

climb/ rocket

increase at the same rate/ sustain its (good) progress

attain.../ reach (the level of).../ rise to...

plateau at.../ peak at...

stay flat/ flatten out

flatten out/ level off

stabilize/ remain stable

bottom out/ plateau

bounce back/ recover/ regain lost ground/ rebound/ be restored/ pick up (again)

change/ vary

dive/ plummet/ plunge/ crash/ collapse

drop/ fall/ decrease/ go down

fall/ fall back

Prepositions

rose by 20%/ rose to 20%
fluctuate between 10 and 20/ rise from 10 to 20

Adverbs

accelerate/ increase exponentially/ increase more (and more) quickly
decrease dramatically/ decrease rapidly
dip a little/ dip briefly
fall sharply/ fall slightly
remain steady/ rise steadily
increase at the same rate/ rise steadily

Adjectives

significant decline/ steady decline
considerable/ significant
be unstable/ fluctuate
remain constant/ remain stable/ stay flat/ stay at the same level

Nouns

a peak/ (a new/ an all-time) high
a blip/ a dip

Numbers

double and double again/ rise fourfold
rose by a third/ tripled
just over a third/ almost a third/ around (= approximately/ about) a third
just under a third/ almost a third/ nearly a third

Tenses

it declined/ it had declined
it declined/ it has declined
it will shoot up/ it would shoot up
the rise caused.../ the rise was caused by...

Determiners

an upward trend/ the upward trend

When things are different above, which is more likely to be useful in an academic setting?

Are there any phrases which you are really unlikely to be able to use?

Use as many phrases from above as you can to describe the graphs that your teacher gives you.

Use similar language to compare and contrast different lines on a graph, single lines at different times, and overall trends against shorter periods.

Trends and comparing/ contrasting

Phrases for talking about similarities and differences presentation and practice

Try to think of or remember at least two expressions for each of the spaces below. Some spaces have many more than two possibilities.

Similarities

_____ of them...

The _____ similarity between them is...

They are _____ in that...

They are similar _____ (where they come from).

They have _____ in common.

They share _____,...

What _____ them (_____) is...

They are _____ identical.

They are _____ the same.

They are _____ similar.

_____ differences, they are similar in so much as...

Differences

They are _____ different.

A is _____...er/ more.../ less... than B.

A is _____ as... as B.

The _____
difference between A and B is...

A _____
difference between A and B is...

They are _____ opposites.

Check your answers with the worksheets above.

Homework One

Paste a line graph into a Word document and underneath write at least 200 words, including:

- Description of the most important parts of the graph
- Comparisons (e.g. between different parts of the graph or with different times, places or topics)
- Reasons for and consequences of the trends
- Future predictions

Homework Two

Write an essay of at least 200 words comparing and contrasting two things related to your area of interest, for example:

- Academic writing in two or more countries, e.g. British and American
- The ideas of two or more experts/ schools of experts
- The meanings of a term in two or more different areas
- The past and present consensus
- Two or more academic areas
- Two or more academic publications
- Two or more academic writing style guides
- Two or more causes for something
- Two or more consequences of something
- Two or more different processes
- Two or more government policies
- Two or more ideas of one person
- Two or more ideologies
- Two or more pieces of research (e.g. some qualitative and some quantitative research)
- Two or more related terms
- Two or more solutions to something
- Two or more theories/ explanations of something