**Rhetorical functions in academic writing: comparison and contrast** *(This handout was prepared by A. Suchomelová)*

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/comparing.htm>

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| Introductory Sentences: Differences |

X **is different from** Y **in** a number of respects.  
**There are a number of important differences between** X and Y.   
X **differs from** Y **in** a number of importantway**s**.  
Smith (2003) found **distinct differences between** X **and** Y. Women and men **differ** **not only in** physical attributes **but also in the way in** **which** they ......

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| Introductory Sentences: Similarities |

The mode of processing used by the right brain **is similar to that** used by the left brain.   
The mode of processing used by the right brain **is comparable in** complexity to that used by the left brain.   
The effects of nitrous dioxide on human health **are similar to those of** ground level ozone.   
**Both** X and Y generally take place in a "safe environment".

**There are a number of similarities between** X and Y.   
Numerous studies **have compared** the brain cells in man and animals and found that the cells **are essentially identical**.

<http://www.uefap.com/writing/writfram.htm>

When you are writing critically, you need to do much more than just give information. One common function in academic writing is comparing and contrasting, writing about similarities and differences. You may compare and contrast objects and places, or ideas and opinion obtained from your reading.

Look at the following table and read the text below. Pay attention to the comparisons and contrasts.

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|  | Price | Processor Speed | Screen Size | Hard Disk | RAM |
| Evesham Axis 1.33 SK | £1,174 | 1.33 GHz | 17" | 40 GB | 256 MB |
| Armani R850 P4. | £2,467 | 1.7 GHz | 19" | 40 GB | 256 MB |
| Mesh Elite 1.7GT Pro | £1,938 | 1.7 GHz | 19" | 57 GB | 256 MB |
| Elonex WebRider Pro | £1,174 | 1.2 GHz | 17" | 38.1 GB | 128 MB |

### Comparison

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| The Evesham Axis **is like** the Elonex WebRider The Evesham Axis **and** the Elonex WebRider **are similar** The Evesham Axis **is similar to** the Elonex WebRider The Evesham Axis **is the same as** the Elonex WebRider The Evesham Axis **resembles** the Elonex WebRider | **with respect to** price. **as regards** price. **as far as** price **is concerned**. **regarding** price. **in that** the price **is the same**. **in terms of** price. **in** price. | |
| **Both** the Evesham Axis **and** the Elonex WebRider cost £1,174. The Evesham Axis **is as** expensive **as** the Elonex WebRider. The Evesham Axis costs **the same as** the Elonex WebRider. The Evesham Axis **is the same** price **as** the Elonex WebRider. | |

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| The Mesh Elite has a large screen. | **Similarly**, it has a high capacity hard disk. **Likewise**, it has a high capacity hard disk. **Furthermore,** it has a high capacity hard disk. **Moreover**, it has a high capacity hard disk. **Correspondingly**, it has a high capacity hard disk. **It has** a high capacity hard disk, **too**. **It also has** a high capacity hard disk. |

### Contrast

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| The Evesham Axis **differs from** the Armani The Evesham Axis **is unlike** the Armani The Evesham Axis **and** the Armani **differ** The Evesham Axis **is different from** the Armani The Evesham Axis **contrasts with** the Armani | **with respect to** price. **as regards** price. **as far as** price **is concerned**. **regarding** price. **in terms of** price. **in** price. |

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| The Evesham Axis costs £1,174, **whereas** the Armani costs £2,467. The Evesham Axis costs £1,174, **while** the Armani costs £2,467. The Evesham Axis costs £1,174, **but** the Armani costs £2,467. The Evesham Axis costs £1,174, **in contrast to** the Armani, **which** costs £2,467. The Armani **is more** expensive **than** the Evesham Axis. The Evesham Axis is **not as** expensive **as** the Armani. The Armani costs **more than** the Evesham Axis. |

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| The Armani is expensive to buy. | **On the other hand**, it is very fast and has a large screen. **In contrast**, it is very fast and has a large screen. **Conversely**, it is very fast and has a large screen. **However**, it is very fast and has a large screen. **But**, it is very fast and has a large screen. |

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| **Although** the Armani is expensive to buy, **Despite** the high price of the Armani, | it is very fast and has a large screen. |