

COMPARING – CONTRASTING MARKERS

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 **important ways**.

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

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**.

Comparison within one sentence

In contrast to oral communities, it is very difficult to get away from calendar time in literate societies.

Compared with people in oral cultures, people in literate cultures organise their lives around clocks and calendars.

Oral societies tend to be more concerned with the present, **whereas** literate societies have a very definite awareness of the past.

Women's brains process language simultaneously in the two sides of the brain, while men tend to process it in the left side only.

This interpretation **contrasts with that** of Smith and Jones (2004) who argue that

Comparison within one sentence (comparative forms)

Women are **faster/slower than** men at certain precision manual tasks, such as placing pegs in holes on a board.

Women tend to perform **better/worse than** men on tests of perceptual speed.

Further, men are **more/less** accurate in tests of target-directed motor skills.

The corpus callosum, a part of the brain connecting the two hemispheres, **may be more/less** extensive in women.

Women are **more/less likely than** men to suffer aphasia when the front part of the brain is damaged.

Adolescents are **less likely** to be put to sleep by alcohol **than** adults.

Women tend to have **greater/less** verbal fluency **than** men.

Men learned the route in **fewer trials** and made **fewer errors than** did women.

Comparison across two sentences

It is very difficult to get away from calendar time in literate societies. **By contrast/in contrast**, many people in oral communities have little idea of the calendar year of their birth.

Tests show that women generally can recall lists of words or paragraphs of text better than men. **On the other hand**, men usually perform better on tests that require the ability to mentally rotate an image in order to solve a problem.

Young children learning their first language need simplified, comprehensible input.

Similarly, low level adult L2 learners need graded input supplied in most cases by a teacher.

Speech functions are **less likely** to be affected in women because the critical area is **less** often affected. A **similar** pattern emerges in studies of the control of hand movements

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

