

**Comparing and contrasting your weeks**

*Work together for seven minutes to find (real) similarities and differences about your week and fill as many of the gaps below as you can. You can't use the same sentence twice, but if you can find a sentence below that means (basically) the same thing, you can use that instead. You get one point for each sentence that only your group has completed.*

\_\_\_\_\_ considerably \_\_\_\_\_ er \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ far fewer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ much less \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ approximately the same \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ both \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. In contrast, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ almost identical \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ very similar \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, whereas \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ completely different \_\_\_\_\_

There was a slight difference \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ not quite as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ nearly as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ exactly the same \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ totally identical \_\_\_\_\_

Neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ substantially better \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ quite a lot worse \_\_\_\_\_

We had \_\_\_\_\_ in common.

\_\_\_\_\_ approximately twice as many \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ about three times as much \_\_\_\_\_

*Turn over if you need some ideas for topics.*

**Possible topics**

- Arts and media
- Energy
- English
- Exercise
- Feelings
- Food and drink
- Free time
- Health/ Healthiness
- Money
- Routines
- Sleep/ Tiredness
- Smoking
- Stress
- Studies
- Time with friends/ family
- Travel
- Work

*Were there any sentences above you couldn't complete? Ask another group or the class for their examples. Is the same thing true of your group?*

**Language tasks**

*Which words and expressions above mean (basically) the same?*

*Can you think of any other ways of saying any of those things?*

*Can you think of other ways of saying (basically) the same as the other sentences?*

*What are the differences between these expressions?*

- Quite a lot bigger/ A lot bigger
- Whereas/ In contrast
- Less/ Fewer
- Both/ Neither

*Why can't you use these phrases in the exercise on the last page? How are their meanings different from each other, and different from other expressions on the first page?*

- On the contrary
- On the other hand

## Suggested answers

considerably/ substantially/ quite a lot ...er

far more.../ much more.../ a lot more...

approximately/ about/ around/ more or less

not quite as... as/ nearly as...as/ almost as... as

whereas/ but/ However

completely different/ totally different

exactly the same/ totally identical

have ... in common/ share...

- Quite a lot bigger/ A lot bigger – the latter is a bigger difference
- Whereas/ In contrast – the latter is only used for a big difference
- Less/ Fewer – less + uncountable noun or adjective/ fewer + countable noun+s
- Both/ Neither – the latter means both are negative
  
- On the contrary – means the previous statement isn't true
- On the other hand – weighing up both sides to come to a conclusion