



IELTS comparing and contrasting practice

With your partner, find similarities and differences between the pieces of writing you did for homework and then compare with the class.

Compare your weekends and weeks (so far) and find out who had one which is described by one of the adjectives below. Choose any adjective, decide who it refers to by describing your week and asking questions, then move on to another one.

sadder/ the saddest

stranger/ the strangest

tougher/ the toughest

harder/ the hardest

nicer/ the nicest

more fun/ the most fun

quieter/ the quietest

more routine/ the most routine

more varied/ the most varied

more boring/ the most boring

more tiring/ the most tiring

more stressful/ the most stressful

more relaxing/ the most relaxing

more expensive/ the most expensive

more romantic/ the most romantic

more interesting/ the most interesting

more exciting/ the most exciting

more unusual/ the most unusual

more dangerous/ the most dangerous

more productive/ the most productive

busier/ the busiest

healthier/ the healthiest

easier/ easiest

better/ the best

worse/ the worst

spent further away from home/ the furthest away from home



Without looking back at the exercise above the fold, make the comparative and superlative of these adjectives from your memory or grammar knowledge.

sad	strange	tough	fun
quiet	routine	exciting	productive
busy	healthy	easy	
good	bad	far	

Look above and check your answers. What are the rules?

Draw lines between sections of different kinds of adjectives in the top list.

What other expressions do you know for comparing and contrasting?

Change partners and find similarities and differences between your weekends and weeks (so far) that you can explain to the class with the phrases below, only using each phrase once. Start with the more difficult phrases if you can.

Possible topics

Food and drink	Reading	Television/ DVDs	Housework
Computer/ Technology	Work/ Studies	Money	Travel
Use of time	Sports/ Exercise	Socialising	

Useful language

Comparing

(exactly/ almost exactly/ more or less) the same (as...)/ identical (to...)

(very/ quite) similar (to...)

(much much/ much/ a lot/ a great deal/ considerably/ quite a lot/ slightly/ a bit/ a little/ a tiny bit) more ...than.../ less... than.../...er

(not) (nearly) as... as...

one and half times/ twice/ three times/ four times/...percent as (much/ many)....as...

(only) a quarter/ half/ two thirds as (much/ many)...as...

... percent more.../...er/less... than...

Compared to...,...

Contrasting

Unlike...,...

..., whereas...

In contrast,...

(totally/ quite a lot/ a bit/ slightly) different



Choose one of the phrases above that you don't think any of the other groups have used but you have. If they can't come up with any sentences, give your own.

Ask and answer questions from the list below.

- How is where you live/ your hometown different from how it was 20 years ago?
- How does where you live compare to the area around here?
- Do you prefer to cook or eat out? (Why do you feel that way?)
- Have you been to many countries? (Which one did you like best? How was it better than the other places?)
- How do you think people's diet will be different in 20 years' time?
- How is the food in your country different to other places you have been or know about?
- How do you picture your life in 2025? (How will it be different from your life now?)
- What is/ was your favourite subject? (Why do/ did you like it better than the others?)
- Where did you last go on holiday? (How does it compare to other places you have been?)
- Do you feel your English is improving? (In which ways?)
- In your opinion, is people's health in your country getting better or worse? (What evidence do you have for that point of view?)
- Do you have any ambitions? (How do you think achieving that would change life?)

Make similar questions for each other, perhaps using the underlined parts above.