

WRITING TIP

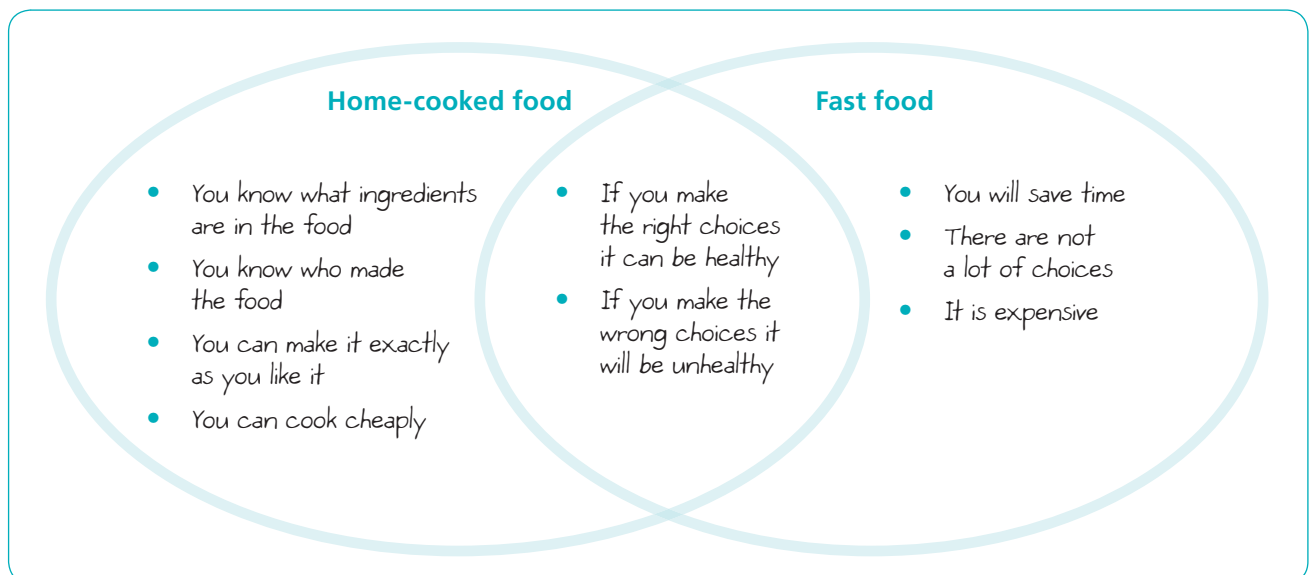
STUDY SKILLS: Give a balanced view

In your writing, it is often useful to give a balanced view or show both sides of an argument. The skills of comparing and contrasting will help you do this.

Practice

- 1 An easy way to note down similarities and differences is to use a Venn diagram. Read the essay question and look at the Venn diagram a student has made. Then answer the questions.

Essay question: Is it always better to eat home-cooked food, rather than fast food?



- a Does this organization show you clearly how you would organize your paragraphs?
- b Does this organization help you decide whether there are more similarities or differences?
- c Can you think of any points you could add to any part of the diagram?

2 These words and phrases can be used to compare or contrast. Put them under the correct heading.

alike in contrast neither ... nor while just in comparison however
similarly whereas on the one hand ... on the other hand the same as also

Compare	Contrast


3 Match the phrases to make sentences showing contrast.

- a The countryside is nice and quiet, while
- b It is better to have green spaces in our city than
- c Chocolate can be very unhealthy in large quantities, whereas
- d On the one hand, cars cause a lot of pollution;
- e Neither the Sycamore Hotel

- 1 on the other hand, they are very convenient.
- 2 many shopping centres.
- 3 the city can be very noisy.
- 4 nor Gray's Boarding House have a swimming pool.
- 5 popcorn can be a healthy snack.

4 Complete the sentences to make a comparison or a contrast. Use the correct form of the word in brackets.


- a A tablet is _____ than a laptop. (light)
- b Using electric cars would be the _____ solution of the three. (good)
- c The Apple Bar was _____ than the Harp Pub. (busy)
- d Working night shifts is _____ than going to work at weekends. (bad)
- e To sum up, I would choose the island holiday, as it is a _____ place than the city holiday. (beautiful)

5  Look at the two writing guides (a/b). With your partner, choose one each and write a paragraph to compare or contrast two books you have read. Then read each other's paragraphs.

a _____ and _____ are alike in a number of ways. For example, _____.
Added to that, both of them _____. Lastly, they are similar because _____.

b _____ and _____ have several differences. I believe the most important difference is _____. A second difference is _____. Finally, they also differ because _____.

Reflect

6  Make a list of things to check when you have finished writing an essay/report comparing or contrasting ideas. Then discuss your ideas and add to your list.

Checklist: comparing and contrasting ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____