

Grades 4-8

27 cards, each with a different short story for students to practice comparing and contrasting


COMPARE & CONTRAST

COMPARE & CONTRAST

1

Keith and Danny are brothers. They both like to sing. Danny has red hair, while Keith's hair is dark brown. Danny is a mischievous boy who always seems to be getting into trouble. Keith, on the other hand, is a dependable young man who often helps his mother around the house. Keith and Danny have a sister named Laurie.

In what ways are Keith and Danny the same? In what ways are they different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

2

Leah sat on her bed and looked around her new room. It was smaller than her room had been back in Tennessee. But Mom had painted the walls the same shade of lavender as her old room and Boo-Boo, her teddy bear, sat on her bed, just as he always had. She looked out her window at the yard below. It was strange being on the second floor. She had never lived in a two-story house before.

How is Leah's new bedroom the same as her old one? How is it different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

3

Jake and Ethan both have a book report due on Friday. They both chose to read the same book and they both finished reading it last week. By Thursday night, he just had to finish up the conclusion. Ethan, however, waited until Thursday afternoon to even start. He had to stay up very late to get his report finished. Jake earned an A on his report, while Ethan got a C.

In what ways were Jake and Ethan's approaches to the report, and their results, the same? How were they different?



Task Cards



COMPARE & CONTRAST TASK CARDS

Use these 27 task cards to help your students practice comparing and contrasting. Each card has a short story, along with two compare and contrast questions. In addition, several of the cards may also require some inference for full understanding. Each card is focused either on people, places, events or a nonfiction topic.

There are several ways to use these cards. You could use them orally with small groups and have students discuss the answers. They could also be used individually with students responding either in paragraph format, with a Venn diagram, or on the provided answer sheet. (This sheet has room for four answers, and you can print or photocopy as many as you need.) Answer keys are also included at the end.

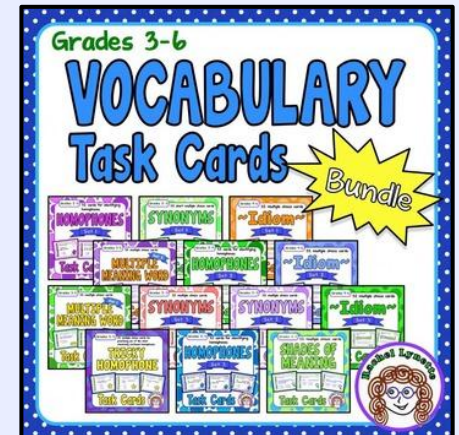
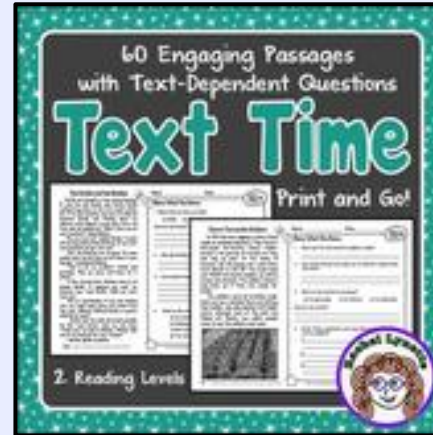
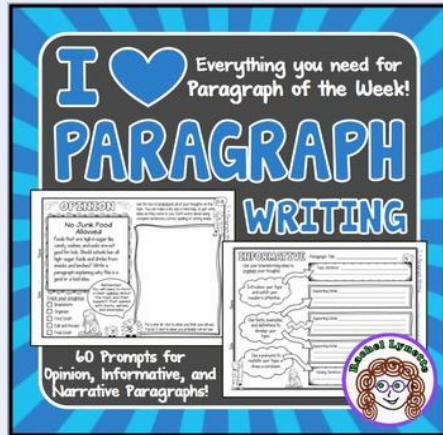
These cards will look best in color, but will also print out fine in grayscale. Simply print and cut along the guidelines. Laminate and use them again and again. Another option is to print on card stock. The cover card can be used to identify the container/baggie you use to hold the cards.

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very much

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COMPARE & CONTRAST

1

Keith and Danny are brothers. They both like to sing. Danny has red hair, while Keith's hair is dark brown. Danny is a mischievous boy who always seems to be getting into trouble. Keith, on the other hand, is a dependable young man who often helps his mother around the house. Keith and Danny have a sister named Laurie.

In what ways are Keith and Danny the same? In what ways are they different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

2

Leah sat on her bed and looked around her new room. It was smaller than her room had been back in Tennessee. But Mom had painted the walls the same shade of lavender as her old room and Boo-Boo, her teddy bear, sat on her bed, just as he always had. She looked out her window at the yard below. It was strange being on the second floor. She had never lived in a two-storey house before.

How is Leah's new bedroom the same as her old one? How is it different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

3

Jake and Ethan both have a book report due on Friday. They both chose to read the same book and they both finished reading it last week. Jake worked on his book report a little bit each night. By Thursday night, he just had to finish up the conclusion. Ethan, however, waited until Thursday afternoon to even start. He had to stay up very late to get his report finished. Jake earned an A on his report, while Ethan got at C.

In what ways were Jake and Ethan's approaches to the report, and their results, the same? How were they different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

4

Many people think that salamanders are a type of lizard because they both have long tails and short legs. However, a salamander is not a lizard at all! Salamanders are a type of amphibian, whereas lizards are a type of reptile. Lizards have dry scaly skin. By contrast, a salamander's skin is smooth and moist. Unlike a lizard, a salamander must spend most of its life in the water.

How are lizards and salamanders the same? How are they different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

5

Lauren's cousin, Mia, was coming to stay with her family for a whole week. Lauren was worried. Even though they were the same age, Lauren felt like they did not have much in common. Lauren loved to play outside, while Mia would rather spend a day curled up with a book. Lauren stopped worrying when Mia walked through the door. She was carrying an armload of board games. Lauren loved playing games! Maybe it would be a fun week after all.

How are Lauren and Mia the same? How are they different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST**

6

Sasha floated on her back in the warm water. The smell of chlorine lingered in her nose and her ears rang with the voices of children echoing off the walls. They had planned to go to the beach today, but it had rained so they went to the pool instead. Sasha liked swimming in the pool, but she missed the smell of the ocean and the sound of the squawking seagulls. At least she still got to wear her new swimsuit and bring her beach ball.

In what way is going to the pool the same as going to the beach? How is it different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST**

7

Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Linn both made chocolate cupcakes for the school bake sale. Mrs. Jensen made hers from scratch. She made five different colors of frosting. Each of Mrs. Jensen's cupcakes looked like a work of art. Mrs. Linn used a store-bought cake mix to make her cupcakes and she frosted them with icing from a can. Both women made two dozen cupcakes for the sale. When the sale was over, not one cupcake was left!

In what ways were Mrs. Jensen's cupcakes the same as Mrs. Linn's? How were they different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST**

8

Telephones have changed a lot over the years! Fifty years ago, phones were much bigger than they are now. They had dials instead of buttons. Not only that, every phone had a cord. There was no such thing as a wireless phone back then. Even though the technology was different, you could still use a phone to talk to someone a thousand miles away, and you still had to pay the phone bill at the end of the month!

In what ways have phones changed over the years? In what ways are they still the same?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

9

"Hurry up, Slow Poke," Logan called from further up the trail. Nolan took one last look at the ant hill he had been watching and rushed to catch up. He wondered why Logan always had to be in such a hurry. There was so much to see in the forest, and Logan was missing it all. It was hard to believe they were twins. They had the same dark hair, the same brown eyes, even their smiles were similar. But they had almost nothing in common. At least they both liked hiking, even if Logan did like it at faster pace.

How are Logan and Nolan alike?
In what ways are they different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST**

10

Aubrey sat in the shade of the big oak tree eating her lunch. She wiggled her toes in the lush, green grass. She could see flowers starting to bloom next to the dog house by the porch. Aubrey thought about how different the yard had looked just a few months ago. The snow had been so deep that Rascal couldn't get into his house. Of course there hadn't been any leaves on the trees then, or flowers either.

How is Aubrey's yard different now than it was in winter? In what ways is it still the same?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST**

11

Gabby and Tyler went blueberry picking yesterday. Gabby worked quickly. She picked almost every berry she saw. Most of them went into her bucket, but every so often, she popped one in her mouth. It wasn't long before Gabby's bucket was full. Tyler was more selective. He picked only the plumpest, ripest berries. It took him a long time to fill his bucket. It didn't help that he ate some of the berries that he picked.

How were Gabby and Tyler the same in their berry picking styles?
How were they different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST**

12

Deciduous trees, such as maple, oak, and elm trees, lose their leaves each autumn and grow new leaves in the spring. Evergreens, such as pine, fir, and redwood trees have needles instead of leaves. They do not lose their needles in the fall. Both deciduous and evergreen trees get energy from the sun. Trees provide homes and food for many kinds of animals, including humans!

How are deciduous trees and evergreen trees different?
How are they similar?



COMPARE & CONTRAST**13**

Stacy and Tracy are best friends. They wear matching clothes to school every day. They read the same books, see the same movies, and watch the same TV shows. On Monday and Wednesday afternoons, Stacy takes a ballet class. She wanted Tracy to take the class with her, but Tracy does not like ballet. Tracy decided to join a soccer team instead.

In what ways are Stacy and Tracy the same? In what ways are they different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****14**

Peyton looked around her new classroom. There were windows on one wall and coat hooks on the other, just like in her classroom last year. The sink was in the back, and that was the same too. But the desks were in groups of four or five. Last year the desks had always been in rows. Then she saw that the Book Nook had a lot of books, many more than were in last year's classroom library. It was going to be an interesting year!

How is Peyton's new classroom the same as her old one? How is it different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****15**

Caleb and Gavin went to the fair. They rode on the Ferris wheel and the bumper cars. Gavin wanted to go on the rollercoaster, but Caleb didn't want to wait in the long line. While Gavin waited in line, Caleb rode on the tea cups three times. Both boys got hot dogs and a soda for lunch. Later, Caleb got some cotton candy for a snack. Gavin decided he would rather have a bag of popcorn.

What things did Caleb and Gavin do at the fair that were the same? What things did they do that were different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****16**

Coal is used to supply about half the electricity that is used in the United States. Coal must be burned to make electricity and burning coal causes pollution. Wind can also be used to make electricity. Unlike burning coal, using wind to make electricity does not cause pollution. In addition, someday we will run out of coal, but we will never run out of wind.

How are coal and wind the same? In what ways are they different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST**17**

Aaron has two puppies. Even though they are both beagles with brown and white fur, they have very different personalities. Rascal loves to run and play. He will chase anything that moves and will run away if he is not on a leash. Lulu would never run away. In fact, she always follows Aaron around the house. Lulu loves to be petted and scratched between her ears. Lulu also barks much less than Rascal does.

How are Rascal and Lulu the same? How are they different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****18**

Emily and her sister Claire had to share their bedroom. Emily had divided the room in half with a piece of string. Each girl had a bed, a set of drawers, and a bookshelf. Emily kept her side of the room as neat as a pin. Her clothes were always folded and put away. She made her bed every day. Claire's side of the room was a mess! There were clothes and toys and books everywhere! She never made her bed.

How were Emily and Claire's sides of the bedroom the same? How were they different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****19**

Mom took Alisa to the library. While Mom looked for books about how to make furniture, Alisa picked out some fantasy and science fiction books. Then mom did some research on the computer while Alisa read a magazine. After that, they looked at the giant atlas together and talked about places they would like to travel to someday. When it was time to leave, they each had picked six books to check out.

What things did Alisa do at the library that were different from what her mom did? What did she do that was the same?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****20**

A hamster or a gerbil can make a good pet. Both hamsters and gerbils are rodents. They need a clean cage, food, and water. Gerbils are social animals. If you want a gerbil as a pet, you should get two so that they can keep each other company. Hamsters are solitary animals. You can't put two hamsters in the same cage or they will fight. Also, unlike gerbils, hamsters are nocturnal, so they will sleep through most of the day.

How are hamsters and gerbils different? How are they the same?



COMPARE & CONTRAST**21**

Susan and Sharon met at summer camp. At first, it seemed like they did not have anything in common. Sharon was a prim and proper girl from Boston, while Susan was a tomboy from California. However, after sharing a cabin together, the girls learned that they had things in common after all. For one thing, both girls were very good at getting into trouble. They also both liked to sing and to swim. By the end of summer they were so close that people could hardly tell them apart.

How were Susan and Sharon different from each other? How were they similar?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****22**

Last week, Jason went to the Seattle Public Library for the first time. Usually, he went to the Redmond library, which was near his house. The Seattle library had books and computers, just like the Redmond one, as well as plenty of helpful librarians. But the Seattle library was so much bigger! It had eleven floors instead of just one. It even had a snack bar and a gift shop!

How is the Seattle library different from the Redmond library? How are they the same?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****23**

Everyone was excited about the big game. Fans from both teams lined up early to get tickets. Many of the Cougar fans wore red and gray, while the Husky fans wore purple and gold. There were more Husky fans than Cougar fans because it was a home game for the Huskies. Everyone cheered loudly as the game got underway, and everyone had a good time.

In what ways were the Husky fans and the Cougar fans the same? In what ways were they different?

**COMPARE & CONTRAST****24**

Two famous children's author's are Roald Dahl and Maurice Sendak. Both authors were born in the early twentieth century and both authors have written dozens of books that have been read by millions of children. However, Roald Dahl is known most for writing middle grade chapter books, while Maurice Sendak is known for both writing and illustrating picture books for younger children.

In what ways are Roald Dahl and Maurice Sendak similar? In what ways are they different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

25

Sonya and Madison are in the same class. They both wrote book reports about the book *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. Sonya wrote hers by hand on notebook paper. She used her best handwriting and drew a picture of her favorite character. Madison wrote her report on a computer. She used her favorite font and included a picture of her favorite character that she found online. Both girls were proud of their work.

In what ways was writing the book report different for Sonya and Madison? In which ways was it the same?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

26

The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert in the world, but it is not the largest desert. The largest desert is Antarctica. Not all deserts are hot. To be considered a desert, an area must get very little rainfall. Antarctica is a desert because it never rains there and almost never snows. If you went to Antarctica, you would see mostly snow and ice. By contrast, if you were to visit the Sahara, you would see miles and miles of sand dunes and rocky plains.

How are Antarctica and the Sahara Desert the same? How are they different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST

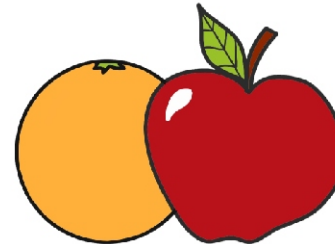
27

Dylan and Kevin are brothers. They both love to play outside. Dylan's favorite outside activity is sledding. He loves the winter and can't wait for the first snow. Kevin's favorite activity is swimming. He loves hanging out at the lake with his friends. Both boys like riding their bikes and playing soccer.

How are Dylan and Kevin the same? How are they different?



COMPARE & CONTRAST



Task Cards

Name: _____

Date: _____

COMPARE & CONTRAST Task Cards

Write the card number in the first column.
Then use the second and third columns to
record your answers.



Card #	Same	Different
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COMPARE & CONTRAST Task Cards

Answer Key for Cards 1-6



Card #	Same	Different
1	They both like to sing. They both have a sister named Laurie.	They have different color hair. Danny is mischievous while Keith is dependable and helpful.
2	Both bedrooms are the same color. Her teddy bear is in her new room and was also in her old one.	Her new room is smaller than her old one. Her new room is on the second floor and her old room was on the first floor.
3	Both boys chose to read the same book. They both finished reading it a week before the report was due.	Jake worked on his report a little bit each night, while Ethan waited until the day before it was due to even start. Jake got an A on his report, while Ethan got a C.
4	They both have long tails and short legs.	Salamanders are amphibians, but lizards are reptiles. The lizard's skin is dry and scaly, whereas the salamander's skin is smooth and moist. Salamanders, unlike lizards, must spend most of their life in the water.
5	Lauren and Mia are the same age, and they both love playing board games.	Lauren loves to play outside, while Mia prefers to stay inside reading a book.
6	Both in the pool and in the ocean you can swim, play with a beach ball, and wear a new swimsuit.	The water in the pool is warm, while in the ocean the water is cold. The smell of chlorine in the pool is different from the smell of the ocean. In the pool you hear the voices of children echoing off the walls, but in the ocean you can hear the sound of the squawking seagulls.

COMPARE & CONTRAST Task Cards

Answer Key for Cards 7-12



Card #	Same	Different
7	Both women baked chocolate cupcakes. They both made two dozen cupcakes. All the cupcakes Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Linn baked for the sale were sold.	Mrs. Jensen made her cupcakes from scratch, but Mrs. Linn used a store-bought cake mix. Mrs. Jensen made five different colors of frosting for her cupcakes, whereas Mrs. Linn frosted her cupcakes with icing from a can.
8	You can use a phone now to talk to someone a thousand miles away, and you could do the same fifty years ago. Having to pay the phone bill at the end of the month is something else that has not changed over the years.	Phones were much bigger before than they are now, and they had dials instead of buttons. Years ago, every phone had a cord, whereas now there are wireless phones.
9	Nolan and Logan have the same dark hair, the same brown eyes and similar smiles. They both like hiking.	Logan is always in a hurry, while Nolan prefers to take his time to look at things more closely.
10	The oak tree and Rascal's house were in Aubrey's yard in winter, and they are there now.	In winter, the yard was covered with snow, and now it is covered with green grass. In winter, there weren't any leaves on the trees, and now the oak tree has leaves. There weren't any flowers in winter, and now flowers are starting to bloom.
11	Both Gabby and Tyler ate some of the berries they picked. They both filled their buckets.	While Gabby picked almost every berry she saw, Tyler picked only the plumpest, ripest berries. It didn't take Gabby long to fill her bucket, but it took Tyler a long time to fill his.
12	Both deciduous and evergreen trees get energy from the sun. Both provide homes and food for many kinds of animals.	Deciduous trees have leaves, but evergreens have needles instead. Deciduous trees lose their leaves each autumn, while evergreens don't.

COMPARE & CONTRAST Task Cards

Answer Key for Cards 13-18



Card #	Same	Different
13	Stacy and Tracy read the same books, see the same movies and watch the same TV shows. They wear matching clothes to school every day.	Stacy takes a ballet class, but Tracy prefers to play soccer.
14	Both her new classroom and her old one have windows on one wall, coat hooks on the other and a sink in the back.	In her new classroom, the desks are in groups of four or five, but in her old one they had been in rows. The Book Nook in her new classroom has many more books than her old classroom's library had.
15	They both rode on the Ferris wheel and the bumper cars. They both got hot dogs and a soda for lunch.	Gavin went to the rollercoaster, but Caleb rode on the tea cups instead. Caleb got cotton candy for a snack, while Gavin had a bag of popcorn.
16	Both coal and wind can be used to make electricity.	Burning coal to make electricity causes pollution, whereas using wind to make electricity does not cause pollution. Someday there will be no more coal, but there will always be wind.
17	Both puppies are beagles, and both have brown and white fur.	Rascal will chase anything that moves, while Lulu prefers to follow Aaron around the house. Rascal will run away if he is not on a leash, but Lulu would never run away. Rascal loves to run and play, while Lulu loves to be petted and scratched between her ears. Lulu barks much less than Rascal.
18	Both sides of the bedroom have a bed, a set of drawers and a bookshelf.	Emily's side was neat, while Claire's side was a mess. Emily's clothes were always folded and put away, but Claire's things were all over the place. Emily made her bed every day, while Claire never made hers.

COMPARE & CONTRAST Task Cards

Answer Key for Cards 19-24



Card #	Same	Different
19	They both looked at the atlas and talked about places they would like to travel to someday. They both picked six books to check out.	Alisa picked out some fantasy and science fiction books, and she read a magazine, while Mom looked for books about how to make furniture, and did some research on the computer.
20	Both hamsters and gerbils can make a good pet. Both hamsters and gerbils are rodents, and they both need a clean cage, food, and water.	Gerbils are social animals, while hamsters are solitary animals. Hamsters are nocturnal, but gerbils are not. Two gerbils in a cage will be happy, but two hamsters in a cage will fight.
21	Both girls were very good at getting into trouble. They both liked singing and to swimming.	Sharon came from Boston, while Susan came from California. Sharon was prim and proper, while Susan was a tomboy.
22	Both libraries have books and computers, and they both have many helpful librarians.	The Redmond library is near Jason's house, but the Seattle library is not. The Seattle library has eleven floors, but the Redmond library has just one. The Redmond library doesn't have a snack bar or a gift shop, while the Seattle library has both.
23	Both the Husky fans and the Cougar fans lined up early to get tickets. They both cheered and they both had a good time.	Cougar fans wore red and gray, while Husky fans wore purple and gold. There were more Husky fans than Cougar fans.
24	Both Roald Dahl and Maurice Sendak are famous. They were both born in the early twentieth century and they both wrote dozens of books for children.	Roald Dahl wrote mostly middle grade chapter books, while Maurice Sendak wrote and illustrated picture books for younger children.

COMPARE & CONTRAST Task Cards

Answer Key for Cards 25-27



Card #	Same	Different
25	Both girls did their best and both were proud of their work.	Sonya wrote her report on notebook paper using her best handwriting and drawing a picture of her favorite character. Madison wrote her report on the computer using her favorite font, and included a picture of her favorite character that she found online.
26	Both Antarctica and the Sahara are very large deserts.	The Sahara is hot and Antarctica is cold. The Sahara has sand dunes and rocks while Antarctica has snow and ice.
27	Both Dylan and Kevin love to play outside, and they both like riding their bikes and playing soccer.	Dylan loves winter because he enjoys sledding but Kevin prefers summer because he loves swimming and hanging out at the lake with his friends.