



مدارس الكلية العلمية الإسلامية
Islamic Educational College Schools



English Language
1st Semester 2025/2026
8th Grade
Unit (3) *Aguinaldo* Handout

Name:

Section:



1. Unit's Content:

Topic :

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1. The Big Question:

How are relationships with others important??

Writing Task (1)

There is an old saying that when you help someone, you are really helping yourself. What do you think that means? Do you think it is important to reach out to others?

The saying suggests that when you help someone else, you also benefit—by feeling good about your actions, building stronger connections, gaining perspective, and growing as a person. Reaching out to others is important because it strengthens relationships, reduces loneliness, and helps create a more caring and supportive community.

2. Vocabulary:

NO.	Word	Meaning	Example
1.	Distribute	(v.) Give something to different people	The teacher will distribute the books to the students tomorrow.
2.	positive	(adj.) Good or useful	She always tries to stay positive even when things go wrong.
3.	Residents	(n.) people who live in a place	The residents of the town were all invited to the meeting.
4.	Reluctant	(adj.) feeling uncomfortable about doing something	He was reluctant to leave the party early.
5.	Field trip	(n.) trip students take with their classmates and teacher	The class is going on a field trip to the museum next week.
6.	Firmly	(adv.) strictly	She held the book firmly in her hands.
7.	Infirm	(adj.) sick or weak	The infirm man needed help crossing the street.
8.	Concern	(n.) / (v.) to worry	There was concern about the weather during the outdoor event.
9.	Dizzy	(adj.) unsteady or shaky	After spinning in circles, he felt dizzy and had to sit down.
10	mumbled	(v.) speak quietly and unclearly	She mumbled her answer when the teacher asked her a question.
11	Scattered	(v.) / (adj.) spread out	The leaves were scattered all over the yard after the storm.
12	Vivid	(adj.) very clear and specific	The painting had vivid colors that made it stand out.
13	Caressed	(v.) touch in a gentle way	He gently caressed the puppy's soft fur.
14	Mischievously	(adv.) playfully	The boy smiled mischievously as he hid the cookies.
15	gestured	(v.) made a motion	She gestured toward the door, signaling that it was time to leave.
16	Suitors	(n.) men who want to marry a woman	The suitors were all waiting for her answer to the proposal.
17	Collage	(n.) work of art made by sticking pictures, photographs, cloth, etc. onto a surface	She created a beautiful collage of family photos for the wall.

Academic Words

? A. Read the paragraph below. Pay attention to the underlined Academic Words.:

There is a non-profit organization in our town that distributes free lunches to the elderly. Volunteers bring the lunches to elderly residents' homes every day at noon. No elderly person who requests a free lunch is ever turned down, although some feel reluctant to ask for help. Both volunteers and the elderly find delivering and receiving free lunches a very positive experience

Write the letter of the correct definition next to each word.

Example: b reluctant

_____ 1. residents

_____ 2. distributes

_____ 3. positive

a. gives something to different people or places

b. feeling uncomfortable about doing something

c. good or useful

d. people who live in a place

Use the Academic Words from the exercise above to complete the sentences.

4. Even though the situation was unpleasant, she tried to keep a _____ attitude.

5. All the _____ of the apartment building helped to keep the grounds clean.

6. He was _____ to clear the table just in case people were not done eating.

7. Every Sunday, she _____ flyers to her neighbors to advertise her crafts store.

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

Example: I had a very positive experience while volunteering at the soup kitchen.

8. If I ask a friend to see a movie with me, I am reluctant to _____.

9. I like the residents of my neighborhood because _____.

10. Before each class, my teacher distributes _____.

Answers:

1. d

2. a

3. c

4. positive

5. residents

6. reluctant

7. distributes

8. invite him to my house.

9. they are very cooperative

10. sheets to revise us with the previous class.

⑦ B.Fill in the gaps with the most suitable answer:

reluctant / vivid / infirm / concern / residents / distribute / positive

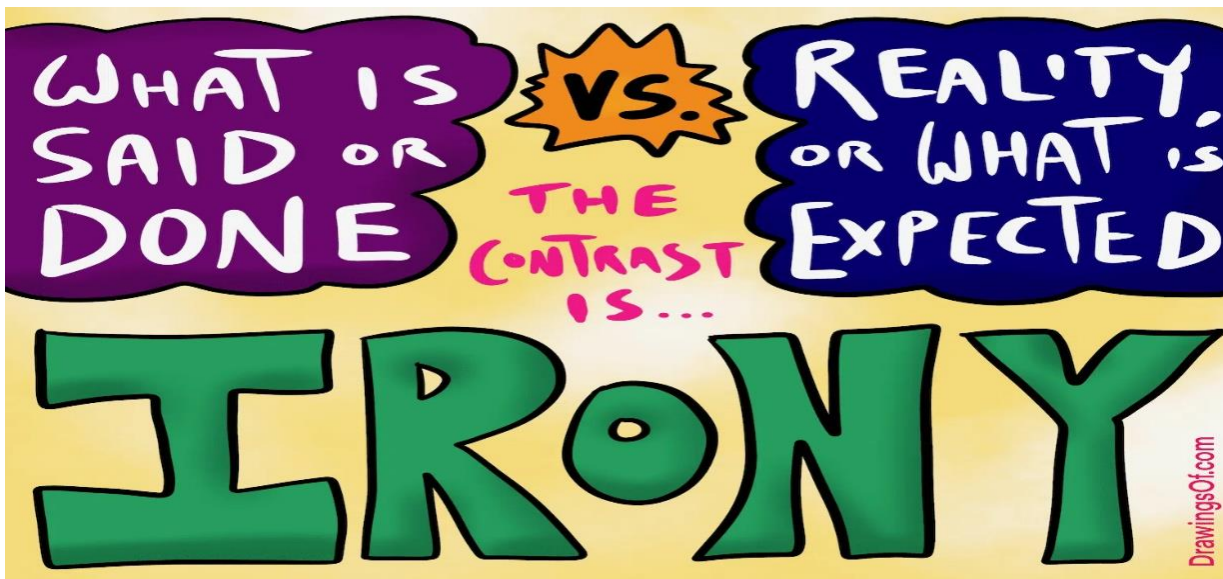
1. The teacher will **distribute** the worksheets to the students after lunch.
2. He has a **positive** attitude that makes everyone feel better.
3. She was **reluctant** to try the new food because she didn't like its smell.
4. Despite feeling worried, the **infirm** elderly woman caressed her cat gently, finding comfort in its warmth.
5. The **residents** of the neighborhood were reluctant to change their old traditions.
6. She gave a **vivid** description of her vacation to her friends, making them feel like they were there.
7. Her primary **concern** was making sure everyone arrived safely to the event.

⑦ B. Choose the best answer and write the part of speech of each :

1. He was (reluctant/ reluctantly/ reluctance) to speak in front of the large crowd, even though he had prepared his speech. (adjective)
2. Her (positive/ positively/ positivity) attitude helped the team overcome many challenges. (adjective)
3. The teacher will (distribute/ distributing/ distributed) the worksheets to the students in class. (verb)
4. The artist used (vivid/ vividly/ vivacity) colors in the painting to bring the landscape to life. (adjective)
5. The child smiled (mischievously/ mischief/ mischiefs) as he hid the gift under his bed, planning a surprise for his parents. (adverb)
- 6.

3. Literary Words:

- A. **Irony:** is the difference between what the reader expects to happen and what actually happens in a story. Writers include ironic situations in stories to create surprise and amusement.



A. Read these examples and identify the irony:



1. Samantha always dreamed of being a writer, but she was terrified of public speaking. She enrolled in a creative writing class, thinking it would be a quiet, solitary experience. However, at the first session, the teacher handed out a form for everyone to present their work in front of the class. Samantha's heart raced. A month later, after presenting her story with trembling hands, she realized she loved the attention and started signing up for more public speaking events.

Samantha thought a writing class would be quiet and private, yet she ended up loving public speaking—the very thing she feared.

2. Ethan hated running, but he joined the track team to impress his friends. On the first day of practice, he found himself gasping for breath after just a few laps around the field. He spent the entire practice thinking how ridiculous it was to join something he didn't even enjoy. By the end of the season, Ethan had won two races and was disappointed when the season ended, wishing it had lasted longer.

Ethan joined track even though he hated running, but he unexpectedly became good at it and ended up loving the sport.'

3. Katie wasn't interested in the new coffee shop opening in town, thinking it was just another trend. Her friend insisted they go for coffee, but Katie was certain she would hate the place. She'd rather stay home with a cup of tea. Three weeks later, Katie was there every morning before work, ordering the same coffee as her friend and chatting with the baristas like an old regular.

Katie was sure she'd dislike the new coffee shop, but she became one of its most enthusiastic regulars.

B. Foreshadowing is the author's use of clues to hint at what might happen later in a story. Writers use foreshadowing to engage readers in wondering about what might happen and to create suspense.

② B. Determine if the following examples are foreshadowing or irony:

Irony or foreshadowing?	Situation
	Sarah wore her favorite white dress to the festival, confident it would be a perfect day.
	The sky turned dark, and thunder rumbled just as they set out for their camping trip.
	Mark spent hours perfecting his recipe for a cooking contest, only to forget it in the oven and burn it.
	The character sees a black cat on her way to a new job and mutters, "What a great way to start my day."
	As Lisa nervously entered the hospital for her surgery, she overheard a nurse whisper, "Let's hope today isn't like last Tuesday."
	Jake studied all night for his math exam, but when he opened the test, he realized it was actually a history exam.
	The villain laughs and says, "I'll never get caught," just before the police arrive.
	During the hike, Peter mentioned how lucky they were to have perfect weather, not realizing a storm was approaching.
	Lucy's mom told her to "break a leg" before her big performance—and she actually tripped and sprained her ankle.
	Just before entering the haunted house, Tom joked, "Nothing in here can scare me," but he left screaming five minutes later.

1. **Sarah wore her favorite white dress... confident it would be a perfect day.**
Irony – Her confidence contrasts with the likely messy or imperfect outcome.

2. **The sky turned dark and thunder rumbled...**
Foreshadowing – This hints that something bad (a storm) is coming.

3. **Mark spent hours perfecting his recipe... only to burn it.**
Irony – The outcome is the opposite of what his hard work intended.
4. **Character sees a black cat... “What a great way to start my day.”**
Irony – Black cats are traditionally seen as bad luck, so her positive comment contradicts the omen.
5. **Lisa overhears a nurse whisper, “Let’s hope today isn’t like last Tuesday.”**
Foreshadowing – Suggests something went wrong before and might again.
6. **Jake studied all night for math, but it was a history exam.**
Irony – He prepared intensely for the wrong subject.
7. **Villain says, “I’ll never get caught,” right before police arrive.**
Irony – His confidence is immediately proven wrong.
8. **Peter mentioned perfect weather, not realizing a storm was approaching.**
Foreshadowing – His comment hints that the opposite (bad weather) is coming.
9. **Lucy’s mom says “break a leg”—and she actually sprains her ankle.**
Irony – The figure of speech becomes literal.
10. **Tom jokes nothing can scare him... then screams minutes later.**
Irony – His claim is quickly contradicted.

Read the passage. Underline the elements of foreshadowing in the story.

Miles threw his shoes and shirt into the closet carelessly. He looked down at his desk. There was an unopened letter sitting there, but he tried not to look at it. He opened the window, then shut it again for no reason. The clock seemed to tick more loudly than before. He looked at the picture of his family hanging on the wall. *What if it's bad news?* he thought. He went downstairs for a glass of water, but once he got to the kitchen he forgot to pour it. He thought of his brother, and how much time had passed since his previous letter. Why would he write now? A moment passed. "OK then," Miles said. He marched upstairs, ready for anything. Even bad news.

- **"There was an unopened letter sitting there, but he tried not to look at it."**

(Suggests he is afraid of what it might say.)

- **"The clock seemed to tick more loudly than before."**

(Creates tension, hinting something important is coming.)

- **"He looked at the picture of his family... *What if it's bad news?* he thought."**

(Directly suggests the letter may contain troubling news.)

- **"He thought of his brother, and how much time had passed since his previous letter."**

(Hints something unusual or concerning might have happened.)

- **"Ready for anything. *Even bad news.* "**

(Strongly foreshadows that the letter may contain something troubling.)



4. Reading Comprehension:

After reading the text in p. 130-137, answer these reading comprehension questions

1. The story is told from: **First Person** point of view.
2. Who are the characters? And what is the setting?

- **Marilia (Tía Marilia as a child)**
- **Sister Antonia**
- **Margarita (her friend)**
- **Señora Collazo (the librarian)**
- **Mami (her mother)**
- **Elenita (the blind resident at the nursing home)**

Setting:

- A Catholic girls' school in Puerto Rico
- The nursing home in Santurce
- Marilia's home

3. What is the tradition they follow every year?

They visit the nursing home in Santurce every December to bring Christmas cheer to the residents.

4. How does she feel about visiting the nursing home? Why?

She feels sad, afraid, and unwilling to go because her grandmother had died in a nursing home, and the memory makes her uncomfortable.

5. What were her 3 plans to avoid the field trip?

- **Ask the librarian to let her stay and help in the library.**
- **Ask Sister Antonia to let her stay at school to do an extra book report.**
- **Eat too much food and drink hot water to try to make herself sick.**

6. What are Aguinaldos? **Surprise gifts.**

7. What was her mother reaction to Marilia's plan.

Mami realized she was pretending to be sick, explained that she might enjoy the visit, and reminded her that she had already promised to bring trays of tembleque for the residents—so Marilia had to go.

8. What did the students do to cheer the residents?

They sang carols, gave them handmade cards, and passed out sweets.

9. What aguinaldos does Marilia's class distribute to the residents of the nursing home?

Besitos de coco (coconut sweets) and tembleque (a coconut dessert).

10. Why did she describe the card to Elenita? How did that make her feel?

She described the card because Elenita was blind and couldn't see it. Doing so made Marilia feel connected, warm-hearted, and happy to have made Elenita smile.

11. Quote a sentence that shows that Elenita liked the aguinaldo Marilia brought.

“The best aguinaldo,” Elenita said, “was your visit, Marilia.”

OR “I’ll keep this card to remember you by.”

13. What is the irony of Marilia’s trip to the nursing home?

She spent the whole time trying to avoid going, but once she arrived, she ended up loving the visit, making a new friend, and wanting to return.

14. What aguinaldos she is planning on giving next year?

She plans to make a collage with different textures so Elenita can feel the picture even though she is blind, possibly a collage of Elenita dancing.

Critical thinking




Is it important to have traditions that bring people together?

Explain your answer

Yes, traditions that bring people together are important because they strengthen family and community connections, create shared memories, and encourage kindness and empathy. These traditions help people feel a sense of belonging and can teach values such as generosity, gratitude, and compassion—just as Marilia learned through her visit to the nursing home.

5. Grammar:

Comparative and superlative adjectives

COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES			
Positive	Comparative		Superlative
 big	 bigger	 biggest	(Note: Put THE before a superlative)
One syllable	-er		-est
	clear	clearer	clearest
One syllable ending with -e	-r		-st
	dark	darker	darkest
One syllable ending with -e	-r		-st
	wise	wiser	wisest
Adjectives ending with one vowel and one consonant	-er		-est
	simple	simpler	simplest
Adjectives ending with one vowel and one consonant	-er		-est
	thin	thinner	thinnest
Two syllables ending in -y	-er		-est
	fat	fatter	fattest
Two syllables ending in -y	-er		-est
	busy	busier	busiest
Three or more syllables	-er		-est
	merry	merrier	merriest
Three or more syllables	more +		most +
	creative	more creative	most creative
Irregular Adjectives	more +		most +
	popular	more popular	most popular
	good	better	best
	bad	worse	worst
Irregular Adjectives	more +		most +
	little	less	least
Irregular Adjectives	more +		most +
	much	more	most

SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVE

One-syllable adjectives



long – longest

tall – tallest

cute – cutest

large – largest

big – biggest

hot – hottest

Two-syllable adjectives

honest – most honest

famous – most famous

happy – happiest

crazy – craziest

narrow – narrowest

gentle – gentlest

Three or more syllables



expensive – most
expensive

dangerous –
most dangerous

popular –
most popular

beautiful –
most beautiful

confident –
most confident

difficult –
most difficult

Irregular adjectives

good – best

many – most

bad – worst

little – least

far – farthest

far – furthest



A. Fill in the correct form of the adjectives in parentheses.

1. I am surely _____ (**fluent**) now than I was last year.
2. Maha is very nice; I think she is _____ (**polite**) person of them all.
3. She seemed _____ (**happy**) than before.
4. This girl was dancing really well, she is _____ (**graceful**) girl I saw.
5. Could you write in a _____ (**clear**) handwriting?
6. Planes can fly _____ (**high**) than birds.
7. He had an accident last year. Now, he is _____ (**careful**) than before.
8. Jim can run _____ (**fast**) than John.
9. Our team played _____ (**bad**) of them all; that's why we lost the match.
10. He worked _____ (**hard**) than ever before.

1. I am surely **more fluent** now **than** I was last year.
2. Maha is very nice; I think she is **the most polite** person **of them all**.
3. She seemed **happier than** before.
4. This girl was dancing really well; she is **the most graceful girl I saw**.
5. Could you write in a **clearer** handwriting?
6. Planes can fly **higher than** birds.
7. He had an accident last year. Now, he is **more careful than** before.
8. Jim can run **faster than** John.
9. Our team played **the worst of them all**; that's why we lost the match.
10. He worked **harder than** ever before.

B. Complete each the sentence by using the bold adjective in its correct form.

EXAMPLE: I have a **fast** car, but my friend has a **faster** car.

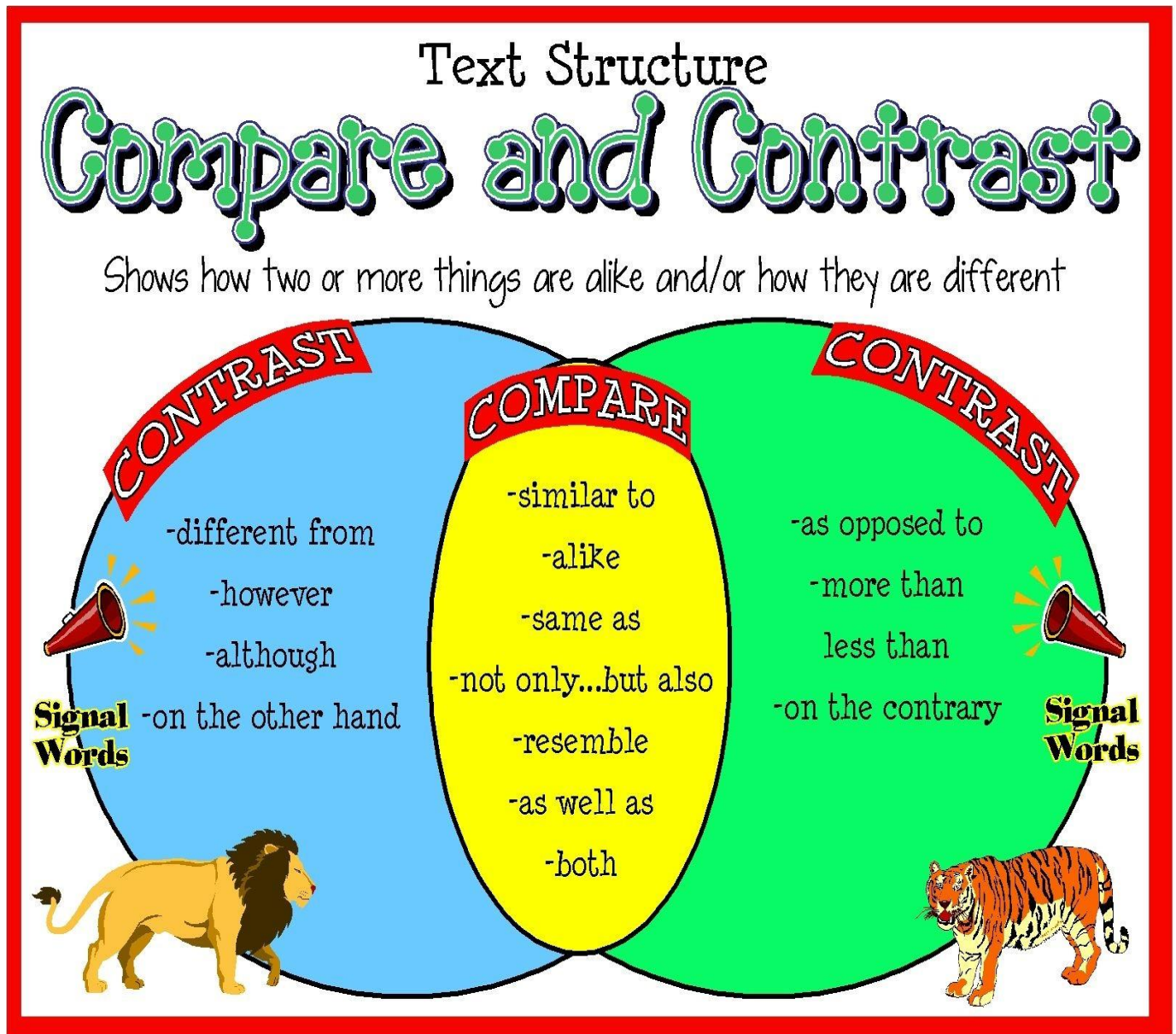
1. This is a **nice** cat. It's much _____ than my friend's cat.
2. Here is Emily. She's six years **old**. Her brother is nine, so he is _____.
3. This is a **difficult** exercise. But the exercises we did yesterday were _____.
4. He has an **interesting** hobby, but my sister has the _____ one in the world.
5. In the last holidays I read a **good** book, but father gave me an even _____ one last weekend.
6. Skateboarding is a **dangerous** hobby. Bungee jumping is _____ than skateboarding.
7. This magazine is **cheap**, but that one is _____.
8. Yesterday John told me a **funny** joke. This joke was the _____ joke I've ever heard.

1. This is a nice cat. It's much **nicer than** my friend's cat.
2. Here is **Emily**. She's six years old. **Her brother** is nine, so he is **older**.
3. **This** is a difficult **exercise**. But **the exercises we did** yesterday were **more difficult**.
4. He has an interesting hobby, but my sister has **the most interesting** one **in the world**.
5. In the last holidays I read **a good book**, but father gave me an even **better one** last weekend.
6. **Skateboarding** is a dangerous hobby. **Bungee jumping** is **more dangerous than** skateboarding.
7. **This magazine** is cheap, but **that one** is **cheaper**.
8. Yesterday John told me a funny joke. This joke was **the funniest** joke **I've ever heard**.

6. Writing : A comparative essay

In order to compare two items, follow the following steps:

- 1- Think of two things that have similarities and differences.
- 2- Use a diagram to help.
- 3- Use the simple present tense.
- 4- Use linking words to show comparison like:



⑦ **A. Read the following passage and complete the gaps using the correct word:**

New York City and Los Angeles are two big cities found within the United States of America. Very large and populous. They both attract thousands of visitors in spite of being hugely crowded and costly to live in 1. **(Where, while)** the cities have some similarities, New York City and Los Angeles are vastly different, especially in their climate, housing, and transportation

New York City's (NY) Climate is much 2. **(cold, colder)** than that of Los Angeles (LA). In New York, the winter is glistening and frosty 3., **(Similarly, In contrast)** Los Angeles has winters and summers that are warm.

The housing characteristics are also different The age of a home in New York is 4..... **(old, older)** than the age of a home in Los Angeles. While the cost of a home in New York is \$581,400, in Los Angeles it is \$583,600. This implies that it is a bit cheaper to acquire a home in NY as compared to LA.

Another major difference between New York City and the city of Los Angeles is public transportation. In LA, there is a huge car culture where almost everybody drives. Most people have their own cars. 5., **(However, Although)** there is public transportation in the city, few people use it. In New York on the other hand, almost everybody takes some form of public transportation.

In conclusion, New York City and Los Angeles have many differences 6. **(in spite of, although)** having some similarities as large cities within the US. The cities are attractive to people from all over the world owing to their different features and characteristics. However, the climate, housing and public transportation show how vastly different the cities are.

Answers

1. **While**

2. **colder**

3. **In contrast**

4. **older**

5. **However**

6. **in spite of**

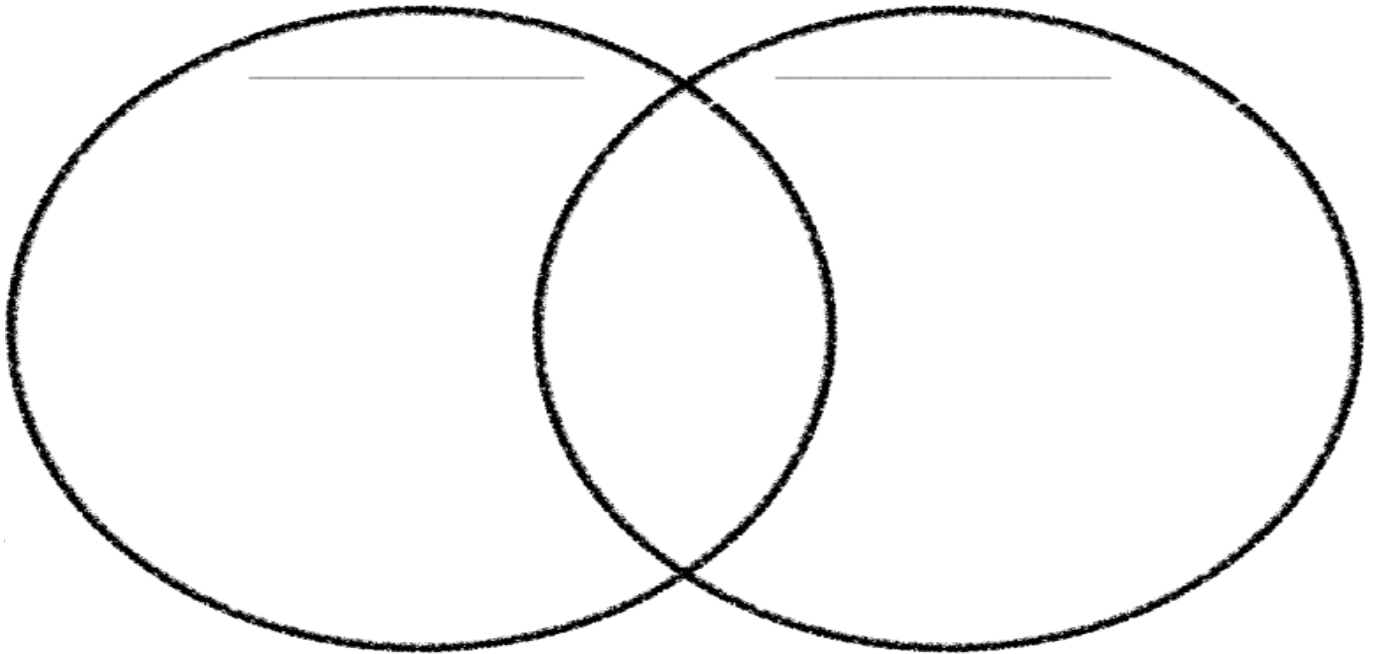
Let's write: Instructions

Choose a topic then write a (250) words essay comparing between them.

1. Video Games vs. Sports: Which Builds Better Friendships?
2. Online Friends vs. Real-Life Friends: Are They Equally Important?
3. Living in a Big City vs. a Small Town
4. Cats vs. dogs
5. Online learning vs. traditional learning



**** Use the diagram to write the similarities and differences:**



1. Video Games vs. Sports: Which Builds Better Friendships?

Friendships are often formed through shared activities, but not all activities develop bonds in the same way. Video games and sports are two popular pastimes among young people today. Although both can bring people together, they do so in very different ways.

Sports create friendships through **face-to-face interaction** and physical teamwork. Teammates practice together, communicate constantly, and rely on each other during games. **In addition**, shared challenges on the field develop trust and cooperation. Sports often include social events outside of practice, which strengthens emotional bonds.

On the other hand, video games allow players to connect across distances. Friends can play together even if they live in different cities or countries. Games that require cooperation encourage players to support each other, make decisions together, and celebrate victories as a team. **Moreover**, online games may provide shy or introverted players a comfortable way to meet new people.

However, sports friendships often feel stronger in person, **while** video game friendships can be just as meaningful emotionally, even without physical interaction. **Similarly**, both activities encourage teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

In conclusion, both video games and sports can build meaningful friendships, but they appeal to different types of people. While sports emphasize in-person teamwork, video games create connections that transcend distance. Together, they show that friendship can grow anywhere teamwork and shared interests exist.

2. Online Friends vs. Real-Life Friends: Are They Equally Important?

In today's digital world, friendships no longer exist only in person. People can form deep bonds online or in real life. Although both types of friendships offer support and companionship, they differ in significant ways.

Real-life friendships grow through **face-to-face interaction**, which allows people to read emotions, spend time together, and share activities such as sports or studying. **In addition**, they can offer immediate help and celebrate important events, making them feel personal and secure.

In contrast, online friendships provide **flexibility and accessibility**. Friends can communicate anytime, connect with people worldwide, and share hobbies or gaming experiences. **Moreover**, some individuals feel more comfortable sharing personal thoughts online, which can create surprisingly deep bonds.

However, online friends may lack physical presence, while real-life friends offer in-person support. **Similarly**, both types of friendships can offer emotional support, companionship, and understanding.

In conclusion, online and real-life friends are equally important but in different ways. Real-life friends provide physical closeness and shared experiences, while online friends offer flexibility and opportunities to meet new people. A balanced social life can include both types of connections.

3. Living in a Big City vs. a Small Town

Choosing where to live can shape a person's life, lifestyle, and opportunities. Big cities and small towns each offer unique experiences. Although both have advantages, they differ in pace, environment, and lifestyle.

Big cities provide **more opportunities**, such as better jobs, schools, and cultural activities like museums or theaters. Life in a city is fast-paced and exciting. **However**, cities can be crowded, noisy, and expensive, which can make some residents feel stressed or isolated.

On the other hand, small towns offer **peace and close-knit communities**. People often know their neighbors, enjoy quieter surroundings, and benefit from lower costs of living. **In contrast**, small towns may lack entertainment options, variety of jobs, and public services.

Similarly, both big cities and small towns attract people for different reasons—cities for excitement and opportunity, towns for comfort and community.

In conclusion, big cities and small towns provide very different lifestyles. Choosing between them depends on individual preferences. Cities offer adventure and convenience, while small towns offer calm and personal connection. Both environments have unique benefits that appeal to different people.

4. Cats vs. Dogs

Pets bring joy to millions of households, but not all pets are alike. Cats and dogs are the most popular choices, and they differ in personality, care, and companionship. **Although both can be loving, they form bonds in very different ways.**

Dogs are known for being **loyal, energetic, and social**. They require daily walks, training, and attention. **Moreover**, dogs often express affection openly by wagging their tails, playing, and following their owners. Their playful and friendly nature makes them ideal for active families.

In contrast, cats are **more independent**. They groom themselves, use a litter box, and need less direct attention. **However**, cats show affection differently; they may purr, rub against their owner, or sit nearby. Their calm nature makes them perfect for people with busy schedules or smaller living spaces.

Similarly, both animals offer companionship and joy. Dogs provide energy and excitement, while cats provide comfort and tranquility.

In conclusion, choosing between cats and dogs depends on a person's lifestyle. Dogs are great for active owners who want constant companionship, while cats suit those who prefer calm, low-maintenance pets. Both pets enrich lives in their own unique ways.

5. Online Learning vs. Traditional Learning

Education is changing rapidly, and technology has introduced online learning as a major alternative. Although online and traditional learning share the goal of teaching students, they differ in interaction, flexibility, and structure.

Traditional learning takes place **face-to-face** in classrooms. Students can ask questions immediately, interact with classmates, and form strong teacher relationships. **Moreover**, the classroom environment encourages focus, discipline, and participation. **However**, it requires fixed schedules and travel to school.

In contrast, online learning offers **flexibility and independence**. Students can learn from home, study at their own pace, and review lessons as needed. **On the other hand**, online learning may lack direct interaction, which can make students feel isolated or less motivated.

Similarly, both methods aim to provide knowledge and skills. Traditional learning emphasizes social skills and structure, while online learning focuses on convenience and accessibility.

In conclusion, both online and traditional learning have unique advantages. Choosing the right approach depends on a student's preferences, goals, and circumstances. Both forms can be effective if used properly.

Evaluate your writing:

Content and ides (Using descriptive details) /2	punctuation 2	Spelling 2	Outline & paragraphing 2	Handwriting 2	Grammar (Using present tense) 2	Total 12

After you finish your first draft, check for mistakes using the following checklist



- ☐ Adding a topic sentence to the introduction
- ☐ Writing the title
- ☐ Writing supporting sentences
- ☐ Using lots of descriptive details
- ☐ Using sequence words
- ☐ Clear handwriting
- ☐ Accurate spelling
- ☐ Using correct tense
- ☐ Using correct punctuation marks and avoiding capitalization mistakes.

**Good
Luck**