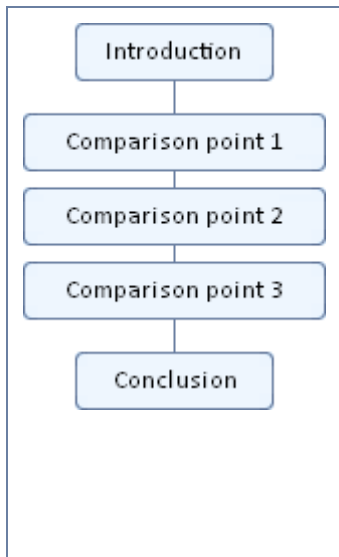


Alternating pattern



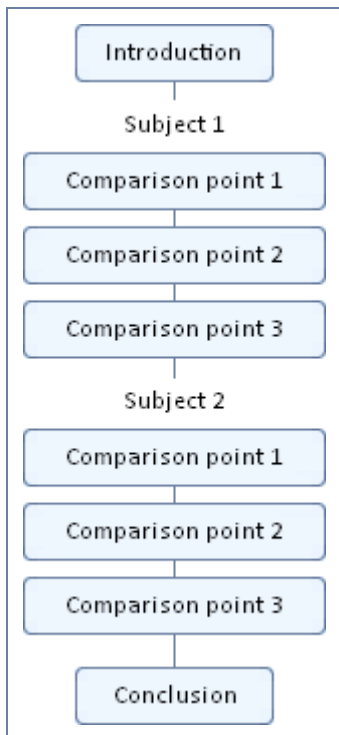
Alternating pattern is also known as "point-by-point comparison".

This mode of comparison will result in your essay having 5 paragraphs.

In it, you will need to consecutively compare and contrast each of the similarities and differences in the given subjects:

- In the introduction you state your thesis.
- Then you discuss both of your subjects together for each point of comparison and contrast.
- In the conclusion you restate the thesis and shortly summarize your essay.

Block pattern



Block pattern is also known as "subject-by-subject / text by text comparison".

According to this pattern, you will be required to separate the body of your compare and contrast essay in two parts.

The first part of the body will be dedicated to the first subject, while the other half will be centered around the second subject:

- In the introduction you state your thesis.
- First you discuss the first subject.
- Then you discuss the second subject.
- In the conclusion you restate the thesis and shortly summarize your essay.

This is an example of outline for a Point by Point type of Compare and Contrast Essay.
Use this example outline as a guideline when writing a compare and contrast essay outline.

Introduction

Introduces the two subjects A and B, which are being compared or contrasted and includes an overview

Thesis statement _____

Point #1 _____

Point #2 _____

Point #3 _____

Body

More detailed explanation of the points with alternating discussions of Subject A and Subject B

Subject A — Point #1 _____

Supporting detail _____

Example _____

Subject B — Point #1 _____

Supporting detail _____

Example _____

Subject A — Point #2 _____

Supporting detail _____

Example _____

Subject B — Point #2 _____

Supporting detail _____

Example _____

Subject A — Point #3 _____

Supporting detail _____

Example _____

Subject B — Point #3 _____

Supporting detail _____

Example _____

Conclusion

Summary of main points _____

Restatement of thesis statement _____

Comparison: Sample Point by Point Essay: Japan and the United States

<p>Introduce both items of comparison and state a thesis at the end that makes a point about the two.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Japan and the United States: Different but Alike¹</p> <p>1 The Culture of a place is an integral² part of its society whether that place is a remote Indian village in Brazil or a highly industrialized city in Western Europe. The culture of Japan fascinates people in United States because, at first glance, it seems so different. Everything that characterizes the United States-newness, racial heterogeneity,³ vast territory, informality, and an ethic of individualism⁴-is absent in Japan. There, one finds an ancient and homogeneous⁵ society, and ethic that emphasizes the importance of groups, and a traditional formal behavior governing every aspect of daily living, from drinking tea to saying hello. On the surface at least, U.S. and Japanese societies seem totally opposite.</p>
<p>Make a point of comparison for each topic and then write about the first item of the comparison and then the other. In longer essays, each half of the comparison is a separate paragraph (as in this essay). In a short essay, they may be combined in one paragraph. A transition separates the two halves of the comparison (different from, in contrast, on the other hand, etc.)</p>	<p>2 One obvious difference is the people. Japan is a homogeneous society of one nationality and a few underrepresented minority groups, such as the ethnic Chinese and Koreans. All areas of government and society are controlled by the Japanese majority. In contrast, although the United States is a country with originally European roots, its liberal immigration policies have resulted in it becoming a heterogeneous society of many ethnicities-Europeans, Africans, Asians, and Latinos. All are represented in all areas of the U.S. society, including business, education, and politics.</p> <p>3 Other areas of difference between Japan and the United States involve issues of group interaction and sense of space. Whereas people in the United States pride themselves of individualism and informality, the Japanese value groups and formality. People in the United States admire and reward a person who rises above the crowd; in contrast, a Japanese proverb says, "The nail that sticks up gets hammered down". In addition, while North American sense of size and scale developed out of the vastness of the continent, Japanese genius lies in the diminutive and miniature.⁶ For example, the United States builds airplanes, while Japan produces transistors.</p> <p>4 In spite of these differences, these two apparently opposite cultures share several important experiences.</p> <p>5 Both, for example, have transplanted cultures. Each nation has a "mother" society-China for Japan and Great Britain for the United States-that has influenced the daughter in countless ways: in language, religion, art, literature, social customs, and ways of thinking. Japan, of course, has had more time than the United States to work out its unique interpretation of the older Chinese culture, but both countries reflect their cultural ancestry.</p>

Continue with points of comparison—usually at least three points for an essay.	<p>6 Both societies, moreover, have developed the art of business and commerce, of buying and selling, of advertising in mass producing, to the highest levels. Few sights are more reassuring to people from the United States than the tens of thousands of busy stores in Japan, especially the beautiful, well stocked department stores. To U.S. eyes, they seem just like Macy's or Neiman Marcus at home. In addition, both Japan and the United States are consumer societies. The people of both countries love to shop and are enthusiastic consumers of convenience products and fast foods. Vending machines selling everything from fresh flowers to hot coffee are as popular in Japan as they are in the United States, and fast-food noodle shops are as common in Japan as McDonald's restaurants are in the United States.</p> <p>7 A final similarity is that both the Japanese and people in the United States have always emphasized the importance of work, and both are paying penalties for their commitment to it: increasing stress and weakening family bonds. People in the United States, especially those in business and in the professions, regularly put in 12 or more hours a day at their jobs, just as many Japanese executives do. Also, while the normal Japanese workweek is 6 days, many people in the United States who want to get ahead voluntarily work on Saturday and/or Sunday in addition to their normal five-day work week.</p>
In the conclusion, review the main points and reiterate the thesis, but in different words	Japan and the United States: different, yet alike. Although the two societies differ in many areas such as racial heterogeneity versus racial homogeneity, individualism versus group cooperation, and informal versus formal forms of behavior, they share more than one common experience. Furthermore, their differences probably contribute as much as their similarities toward the mutual interest the two countries have in each other. It will be interesting to see where this reciprocal fascination leads in the future.

¹ Adapted from Harris, Neil. "We're Different but Alike." Japan Salutes America on Its Bicentennial. Tokyo: America-Japan Society, 1976.

² **integral**: necessary for completeness

³ **heterogeneity**: variety

⁴ **ethic of individualism**: belief in the value of the individual person over the group

⁵ **homogeneous**: characterized by sameness, consistency

⁶ **diminutive and miniature**: very small

COMPARISON SIGNAL WORDS

Transition words and phrases

similarly likewise	human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery; similarly/likewise , a robot can be programmed to detect equipment malfunctions.
also	Human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery; a robot can also .
too	Human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery; a robot can too .

Subordinators

as just as	Robots can detect malfunctions in machinery, as/just as human workers can. Note: use a comma when <i>as</i> and <i>just as</i> show comparison even when the dependent clause follows the independent clause as in the above exercise.
---------------	---

Coordinators

and both...and	Robots and human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery. Both robots and human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery.
not only... but also	Not only robots but also human workers can detect malfunctions in machinery.
neither... nor	Neither robots nor human workers are infallible. ¹

Others

like (+ noun) just like (+ noun) similar to (+ noun)	Robots, like/just like/similar to human workers, can detect malfunctions in machinery.
(be) like (be) similar (to) (be) the same as (be) the same	Robots are like/are similar to/are the same as human workers in their ability to detect malfunctions in machinery. In their ability to detect malfunctions in machinery, robots and human workers are the same .
(be) alike (be) similar	Robots and human workers are alike/are similar in their ability to detect malfunctions in machinery.
to compare (to/with)	Robots can be compared to/be compared with human workers in their ability to detect malfunctions in machinery.