Compare & Contrast Transitions

Transitional words and phrases keep your ideas connected together, make your writing coherent, and help your reader understand the logic of your paper.

Below is a list of some transitional words you can use in a compare and contrast essay. Make sure you use them in the right place to convey the right meaning.

**Note:** When joining 2 independent clauses, you can either place transitions between a period and a comma or between a semi-colon and a comma as in the examples below.

**Comparison**
- in the same way
- by the same token
- similarly
- in like manner
- likewise
- in similar fashion

**Examples:**

Math was hard for me in high school. **Likewise**, it is hard in college.
Houseplants require much care and attention; **similarly**, outdoor plants must be cared for properly.
Rock climbing takes much practice and skill. **In the same way**, learning to write well requires a great deal of practice.

**Contrast**
- yet
- and yet
- nevertheless
- nonetheless
- on the contrary
- but
- in contrast
- notwithstanding
- however
- though
- unlike
- on the other hand

**Examples:**

- Kim and Tom have different tastes in music and food; **however**, they both like to dance.
- Kim and Tom have different tastes in music and food. **On the other hand**, they both like to dance.
- **Unlike** dogs, cats are lap animals.