

Compare Has a Language Pattern

Compare two cases using one shared criterion; write a similarity and a contrast supported by both cases.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Prepare two comparable cases and choose the property to compare.

Teach it in four steps

1. Compare two cases using one shared criterion; write a similarity and a contrast supported by both cases.
2. Place evidence for both cases side by side using the same units or categories.
3. Write a shared feature and a contrast with both, whereas or compared with.
4. Check that each comparative phrase points to evidence from both cases.

Worked example: Compare Has a Language Pattern

Compare copper and plastic using conductivity as the criterion. "Both can form useful objects, whereas copper conducts electricity and plastic is an insulator." A description of copper alone does not compare the cases.

Teacher prompt: "Which property are you comparing, and what do both cases show?"

Check understanding

Give a new pair of materials. Check whether the learner keeps the criterion consistent and names both cases.

Fade the support

Remove the comparison table, then the connective bank; retain the requirement to compare the same property.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: compare two methods against accuracy and efficiency. Humanities: compare accounts using date, purpose or perspective.

Adjust the language support

A1-A2 access: keep the subject goal; use visuals, a small word bank, pointing or drawing and partner rehearsal. Use a home language to establish meaning where helpful.

B1-B2 extension: ask for fuller explanations, precise subject vocabulary and qualifications. Reduce sentence openings when learners can organise the response independently.

These are starting points, not placement rules. Judge support from the learner's response to this task; proficiency can differ across skills.