

Lesson
4

Comparison and Contrast Clues

Teaching

Comparison clues are words and phrases that have the same or similar meaning as an unfamiliar word. Words and phrases such as *like, as,* and *in the same way* often signal comparisons. **Contrast clues** are words and phrases that mean the opposite of an unfamiliar word. Words and phrases such as *although, but, yet, however, except* and *on the other hand* signal contrasts. In the sentence below, the word “as” signals the comparison between the clue, “ready to bite me,” and the meaning of *menacing*—threatening.

The large dog seemed *menacing*, as if it were ready to bite me.

A. Comparison and Contrast Clues in Action

For each sentence, circle the word or phrase that signals a comparison or contrast clue. Circle *comparison* or *contrast*, depending on the type of clue. Then write the meaning of the underlined word. Use a dictionary if needed.

1. Sid thought the music would end gradually, but it stopped *abruptly* instead.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

2. When he wouldn't get his way, he would *sulk* like a child whose toys were taken away.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

3. Angela had hoped that the dress would fit, but after trying it on she realized she would have to make an *alteration*.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

4. The little girl was always *radiant*, as if the sun glowed on her face wherever she went.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

5. The students were *reluctant* to take the quiz—except Mary who had studied for it.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

6. Sarah wanted a *prominent* place in the class picture; however, I preferred to be in the background.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

7. Although others found him to be *disagreeable*, I thought he was quite pleasant.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

8. Don's efforts on the soccer field were *valiant* in the same way a soldier shows courage in battle.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

9. The teacher said my report was *satisfactory*, but I wish it could have been better.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

10. Although the dance routine seemed *intricate*, I thought it was quite simple.

comparison/contrast
meaning: _____

**Lesson
4**

Comparison and Contrast Clues

More Practice

<i>abruptly</i>	<i>alteration</i>	<i>reluctant</i>	<i>disagreeable</i>	<i>satisfactory</i>
<i>sulk</i>	<i>radiant</i>	<i>prominent</i>	<i>valiant</i>	<i>intricate</i>

B. Vocabulary Words in Action

For each item, choose a word from the vocabulary list above and write it in the blank. Remember to read each sentence using the vocabulary word you choose to make sure it fits the overall meaning. Use a dictionary if needed.

- Daryl's plan to win the game was as _____ as a 1,000-piece puzzle.
- After a bad night's sleep, Jason was as _____ as an attack dog.
- By her glowing, _____ smile, I knew she was pleased to be given a _____ role in the school play. She wouldn't be happy with a small part!
- Instead of slowing gradually, the car braked _____ when a squirrel ran in front of it.
- Our solution isn't perfect, but at least it is _____.
- The experiment almost worked; I had to make just one small _____.
- Rather than _____, try to make the most out of a difficult situation.
- Although _____ at first, he overcame his fear and proved to be a _____ hero.

C. Vocabulary Challenge

Read the following sentences and try to pick out the context clues. Then circle the meaning of the italicized word. Finally, compare your definitions with those in the dictionary and see how you did.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> She was <i>hostile</i> toward the stranger in the same way that an animal reacts when threatened.

polite/unfriendly/playful Although the fire was damaging, he was able to <i>salvage</i> some belongings.

save/discard/return Despite the fact that she was having a <i>routine</i> operation, Joan was still worried.

rare/difficult/standard | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Much like his parents, Charles respected the idea of family <i>tradition</i>.

custom/resistance/anxiety I proudly stood by my <i>conviction</i>, even though it went against the majority.

shyness/belief/uncertainty |
|--|--|