

Academic Writing Task 1

Comparing and Contrasting Data

The instructions for Task 1 answers are always the same 'Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant'.

In the section on comparing and contrasting data, the Masterclass looked at the different grammatical structures you can use in your task 1 answer.

Remember to achieve a good IELTS score it is essential you:

- 1. Support your statements with data.*
- 2. Express the differences and similarities of the key features or data of the graph, chart, table or map.*
- 3. Show a good range of grammatical structures in your answer.*

Look at these sentences comparing Visits to Museum X and Museum Y

Comparisons – differences

- Museum X was ...**er than** Y, **more ...than**...
- Overall visits to X grew...**while** visits to Y dropped...
- **Whereas** visits to Museum X decreased by..%, visits to Y....
- The number of visits to X in 2010 was **different from**
- **On the other hand**....
- The number of visits to museum X rose by ...% **compared to** a ...rise in people visiting museum Y

Comparisons – similarities

- The number of visits to Museum X was **the same as** visits to Y.
- Attendance figures fell by ...% in 2008, **similar to** the fall in 2010.
- **Not only** did numbers decline in 2010 by ...% at Museum X, **they also** fell at Y.
- Visitor numbers increased at Y, **similarly** the figures rose at Museum X.
- Overall visits to **both** museums increased in the period.
- Numbers decreased in 2012 at Museum X, **as** did the figures at Museum Y.

Complete the following sentences comparing travel by car and public transport between 2000 and 2010 using a different construction in each sentence.

Differences

1. Overall the number of journeys by car felljourneys by public transport increased.
2.people travelled by car in 2000 [3 million]in 2005 [1 million].
3. The number of journeys by car in 2002 [2 million] was the number of people using cars in 2005 [1 million].
4. People travelling by car fell by 50% a 20% rise in people taking public transport.

Similarities

5. Journeys by car fell dramatically in 2005the figure fell in 2006.
 6. The number of journeys by car in 2006 was in 2002.
 7. Overall, journeys by forms of transport declined in 2008.
 8. Public transport use increased in 2005 by 25% the increase in 2006.
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Answers:

1. Overall the number of journeys by car fell **whereas** journeys by public transport increased.
2. **More** people travelled by car in 2000 [3 million] **than** in 2005 [1 million].
3. The number of journeys by car in 2002 [2 million] was **different from** the number of people using cars in 2005 [1 million].
4. The amount of car journeys fell by 50%, **compared to** a 20% rise in people taking public transport.
5. Journeys by car fell dramatically in 2005, **similarly** the figure fell in 2006.
6. The number of journeys by car in 2006 was **the same as** in 2002
7. Overall, journeys by **both** forms of transport declined in 2008.
8. Public transport use increased in 2005 by 25%, **similar to** the increase in 2006.