AET-127 In-Class Writing Handout — Comparison & Contrast; Transitions

1. Comparison vs. Contrast

Comparison explains similarities; contrast discusses differences. Academic paragraphs intentionally combine both to strengthen logic and analytical precision.

2. Paragraph Organization Structures

Block Method covers Item A, then Item B. Point-by-Point alternates features and increases cohesion. For one-paragraph in-class tasks, Point-by-Point is strongly effective.

3. Transition Signals for Cohesion

Transition Type	Function in Paragraph	Common Signals
Comparison	Show similarities	similarly, likewise, equally, in the same way
Contrast	Show differences	however, whereas, on the other hand, in contrast, nevertheless
Addition	Support or expand	moreover, furthermore, additionally, besides, also
Example	Illustrate claim	for example, for instance, such as, to illustrate
Cause-Effect	Link result	therefore, thus, hence, consequently, as a result
Conclusion	End analysis	overall, in summary, to conclude

4. Paragraph Formula (Reusable)

A and B are ... Both share X. Similarly, they also share Y. However, they differ in Z. For example, A does this, whereas B does that. Overall, A is ___ while B is ___.

5. Model Paragraph: Technology in Past vs. Present Life

Technology use has shaped both past life and present life, although the tools and pace have evolved dramatically. In past life, technological platforms were mainly offline, device-dependent, and required local installation or physical file transfer. In contrast, present life technologies are largely cloud-based, cross-platform, and always connected. Similarly, both past and present technologies aim to increase productivity, support learning, and solve user needs efficiently. However, the experience differs in workflow tempo and cognitive load. For example, in past life, a translator

using desktop software had to rely on local system performance and manual error checking, whereas present life students benefit from real-time compliance warnings, automatic meters, and collaborative cloud editors. Likewise, earlier file transfer meant physical storage devices (USBs, CDs), however today we access the same tasks through instant shared systems. Consequently, revision cycles were longer in past life, whereas iteration is faster in present life. Overall, past technologies operated linearly, while present life technologies operate on flow, speed, and instant discipline.

6. Mini Paragraph Samples (Transitions in Use)

• The first platform required installation. On the other hand, the current platforms run without installation.

• Translation students edited manually in past life. Similarly, students still revise today — but faster.

• Earlier systems were slower. Consequently, editing cycles were longer.

• Cohesion rises with signals. For example, "however" clearly marks a contrast before explanation.

• Overall, transitions guide readers like cognitive signposts — not decoration.

7. Academic Integrity & Professional Mindset

Academic work must be original and critically revised. Technical limits and reader guidance are quality filters, not barriers.

8. Why Transitions Matter in Academic Writing

Transitions ensure that the reader understands the logical direction of the paragraph. They prevent cognitive disorientation and make the analytical voice stronger. Without transition markers, arguments feel fragmented. However, when used with parallel grammar and concise phrasing, transitions unify the paragraph and sharpen both written and spoken delivery.