

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Great Writing 3: From Great Paragraphs to Great Essays Unit 6: Comparison Essays

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose the correct answer.

- _____ 1. Which is the better topic sentence for a comparison essay?
- a. Montreal and Toronto are two important and interesting cities in Canada.
 - b. Although Montreal and Toronto are in the same country, they are very different cities.
- _____ 2. Which is the better topic sentence for a comparison essay?
- a. Driving and using public transportation both offer advantages and disadvantages.
 - b. Driving is better than taking the bus, the train, or another form of public transportation.
- _____ 3. Which is the better topic sentence for a comparison essay?
- a. Studying in the U.K. and Australia may seem similar, but they are very different experiences.
 - b. Both Australia and the U.K. are popular choices for college students who want to study abroad.
- _____ 4. Which is the better topic sentence for a comparison essay?
- a. Barcelona is a wonderful city with many exciting attractions.
 - b. Barcelona has changed a great deal in the last fifty years.

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INSTRUCTIONS: Read the essay and answer the questions that follow.**An Important Decision**

Choosing between remaining in the family home or finding an independent living space is an important decision for a young person. In many countries, young people start an independent life when they begin college, find a first job, or get married. When they first leave home and find their own apartment, they are often very excited. They think their lives will be remarkably different than when they lived with their parents. However, many young adults may find that living on their own is not as different from living at home—or as exciting—as they expected.

Probably the most important point of comparison between these two preferences is cost. It is usually less expensive to stay in the family home than to find a separate apartment. Rent costs are just the beginning. In addition to rent, there are also bills for heating, electricity, and food. For some young people, life at home may be free, but many young people who continue to live at home begin to contribute to the family's bills, perhaps not for rent, but for food or Internet service, for example. They are often surprised at how much it costs to run a household.

Convenience is another important factor to consider. When young adults move from their family home, they can choose where to live. They can choose a location that is closer to their school, job, or nightlife than their parent's home. However, not everything about moving away from home is convenient. When people live on their own, they have to do everything themselves—shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry, and so on. At home, young people may help out with some of these jobs, but it is likely that their parents—probably their mothers—do many of these tasks for them. When living on their own, these young people come home from work or school each evening. They may be tired and hungry. One evening, they may open the refrigerator and find that it is empty. There may be a pile of dirty clothes to be washed. All of these inconveniences may be a reminder of how convenient life was at home.

So why do many young people prefer to move out of their family home and find their own place to live? Often, they make this choice because they want more independence than they have at home. They want the freedom to do what they want, whenever they want. They can stay out late, wake up at noon on Saturday, eat when and what they want, and text their friends all night. There is no threat of parents telling them what to do and when to do it. While young adults may enjoy this freedom, they may also discover that independent living comes with a lot of responsibility. For example, they may not be able to sleep until noon on Saturday because they may need to clean the kitchen and do the laundry. They may not be able to text their friends all night because they have to work the next day in order to pay the rent. In addition to freedom, independent living involves a great deal of responsibility that actually limits the freedom young adults seek.

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The decision to live with family or to find a separate place is a personal one and requires careful consideration. One factor may be significant for one person, whereas another factor may be significant for someone else. It is important to consider how the two choices differ in terms of cost, convenience, and independence. It may be a good idea to discuss the choice with people who have experienced both before deciding. In fact, the two choices may not be as different as they first appear.

5. What two subjects is the writer comparing?

6. What is the thesis statement? Write it here.

7. What method of comparison does the writer use: point-by-point or block?

8. What are the three points of comparison?

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete each sentence with the best connector or transition.

9. _____ (Although / However) running ten miles is difficult, it can also be rewarding.
10. In the United States, business meetings almost always begin at the scheduled time; in Mexico, _____ (in contrast / likewise), it is not unusual for people to arrive late.
11. _____ (Like / Compared to) the television screens of the 1960s, today's TV screens are enormous.
12. The water was frigid. _____ (Nevertheless / Conversely), dozens of people ran in for a swim.
13. In the 1930s, many people lost their jobs because of the bad economy. _____ (Similarly / Likewise), during the current weak economy, many people cannot find a job.

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GRAMMAR: The Comparative and Superlative**INSTRUCTIONS: Choose the correct answer.**

- _____ 14. Choose the correct sentence. If none of the sentences is correct, choose “no correct sentences.”
- Sylvia is the intelligentest researcher on the team.
 - Sylvia is the most intelligentest researcher on the team.
 - Sylvia is the most intelligent researcher on the team.
 - no correct sentences
- _____ 15. Choose the correct sentence. If none of the sentences is correct, choose “no correct sentences.”
- The athletes from Jamaica are the fastest in the world.
 - The athletes from Jamaica are the faster in the world.
 - The athletes from Jamaica are the most fast in the world.
 - no correct sentences
- _____ 16. Choose the correct sentence. If none of the sentences is correct, choose “no correct sentences.”
- The performance was more funny than the audience expected.
 - The performance was funnier than the audience expected.
 - The performance was the funniest than the audience expected.
 - no correct sentences
- _____ 17. Choose the correct sentence. If none of the sentences is correct, choose “no correct sentences.”
- The class speaks English betterly now than in the past.
 - The class speaks English much more better now than in the past.
 - The class speaks English more well now than in the past.
 - no correct sentences

GRAMMAR: Parallel Structure**INSTRUCTIONS: Look at the underlined word(s) in each sentence. If there is an error, choose the correct form. If there is no error, choose “correct.”**

- _____ 18. Some popular activities are swimming, biking, and to go hiking.
- swimming, biking, and hiking
 - swimming, to bike, and to go hiking
 - correct
- _____ 19. The doctor advised the patient to get plenty of rest, get plenty of sleep, and exercising.
- get plenty of rest, get plenty of sleep, and get plenty of exercising
 - get plenty of rest, sleep, and exercise
 - correct

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- _____ 20. When visiting a new city, the most important things visitors need are a clean place to stay, good food to eat, and enough money to get both of these.
- a clean place, good food to eat, and enough money for both
 - a clean place to stay, to eat, and to get both of these
 - correct
- _____ 21. Good employees are hard working, pay attention to details, and knowledgeable.
- hard working, detailed, and knowledgeable
 - hard working, pay attention to details, and have knowledge about the business
 - correct
- _____ 22. People use fireworks for many reasons: to celebrate holidays, for birthdays, and for other special occasions.
- holidays, birthdays, and other special occasions
 - for holidays, for birthdays, and for other special occasions
 - correct

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

- _____ 23. A tremendous traffic jam _____ the city for six hours yesterday.
- accomplished
 - paralyzed
 - constituted
- _____ 24. It is always a good idea to make copies of important documents and keep the _____ in a safe place.
- preferences
 - principles
 - originals
- _____ 25. All of the _____ had to leave the building quickly when a fire started in one of the apartments.
- residents
 - procedures
 - principles
- _____ 26. After two weeks of _____ weather, people began ice skating on the frozen lakes and rivers.
- urban
 - frigid
 - constant

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- _____ 27. The manager explained the safety _____ that all new employees must learn and follow.
- procedures
 - motions
 - threats

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete each sentence with the correct word form.

28. The fact that the project was completed on time and with no extra costs is a considerable _____ (accomplishment / accomplish / accomplished).
29. It is difficult to get any work done when there are _____ (constant / constantly) interruptions.
30. The comfortable atmosphere encouraged all participants to express their ideas _____ (freedom / free / freely).
31. Some people like coffee in the morning, but others _____ (preference / prefer / preferable / preferably) tea.
32. _____ (Threat / Threaten / Threatening / Threateningly) weather forced the school to cancel all outdoor activities.

INSTRUCTIONS: Unscramble the words and phrases to write a sentence. Use correct capitalization and punctuation.

33. more humid / compared to / this year is / last year
- _____
34. it appears / the painting is / remarkably modern / although / more than 500 years old
- _____
35. the most popular / not only was the donut / it was also / dessert at the cafe / the least expensive
- _____
36. frigid / this winter / unlike / last winter / has been
- _____

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37. may not have as much / people who live / freedom as / with their parents / people who live on their own
- _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Rewrite each sentence, correcting the error(s) in each. If there is no error, write “no error.”

38. It is expensiver than we expected to build the stadium and training all the employees.
- _____

39. Although no one can predict the future, everyone can try to plan for it.
- _____

40. Being a skilled doctor require both education and experience.
- _____

41. The weather in Norway is not as severe like Alaska.
- _____

42. It very convenience to live near public transportation.
- _____

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43. **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write a comparison essay. Compare your hometown or neighborhood today to what it was like when you were a child or when your parents were young. Use the block method or point-by-point method. Include a short introduction with a thesis statement, two or three body paragraphs, and a brief conclusion. Use at least two of the vocabulary words or phrases from Unit 6. Write at least 200 words.

[illegible]

Great Writing 3: From Great Paragraphs to Great Essays Unit 6: Comparison Essays

Answer Section

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. ANS: B | PTS: 2 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Elements |
| 2. ANS: A | PTS: 2 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Elements |
| 3. ANS: A | PTS: 2 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Elements |
| 4. ANS: B | PTS: 2 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Elements |
| 5. ANS: | | | |

Answers will vary. Suggested answer: living at home and living independently

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

6. ANS:
However, many young adults may find that living on their own is not as different from living at home—or as exciting—as they expected.

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

7. ANS:
point-by-point

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

8. ANS:
Answers will vary. Suggested answer: cost, convenience, and independence

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

9. ANS: Although

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

10. ANS: in contrast

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

11. ANS: Compared to

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

12. ANS: Nevertheless

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

13. ANS: Similarly

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Elements

- | | | | |
|------------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| 14. ANS: C | PTS: 1 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Grammar |
| 15. ANS: A | PTS: 1 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Grammar |
| 16. ANS: B | PTS: 1 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Grammar |
| 17. ANS: D | PTS: 1 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Grammar |
| 18. ANS: A | PTS: 1 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Grammar |
| 19. ANS: B | PTS: 1 | REF: Unit 6 | TOP: Grammar |

20. ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Grammar
21. ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Grammar
22. ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Grammar
23. ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
24. ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
25. ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
MSC: AW
26. ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
27. ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
MSC: AW
28. ANS: accomplishment

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
29. ANS: constant

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary MSC: AW
30. ANS: freely

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
31. ANS: prefer

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
32. ANS: Threatening

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Vocabulary
33. ANS:
Compared to last year, this year is more humid., This year is more humid compared to last year.

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
34. ANS:
Although the painting is more than 500 years old, it appears remarkably modern.

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
35. ANS:
Not only was the donut the most popular dessert at the cafe, it was also the least expensive., Not only was the donut the least expensive dessert at the cafe, it was also the most popular.

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
36. ANS:
Unlike last winter, this winter has been frigid.

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences

37. ANS:
People who live with their parents may not have as much freedom as people who live on their own.
- PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
38. ANS:
It is more expensive than we expected to build the stadium and train all the employees.
- PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
39. ANS:
no error
- PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
40. ANS:
Being a skilled doctor requires both education and experience.
- PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
41. ANS:
The weather in Norway is not as severe as the weather in Alaska., The weather in Norway is not as severe as in Alaska.
- PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
42. ANS:
It is very convenient to live near public transportation.
- PTS: 1 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Sentences
43. ANS:
Answers will vary.
- PTS: 20 REF: Unit 6 TOP: Writing