1. **What to do and what to watch for:** Comparing and contrasting is a skill you use every day. You compare prices when you shop to get the best value for your money. You contrast one TV show with another to decide which one you will watch. The ability to compare and contrast details is an important skill.

2. **The FCAT test requires you to compare and contrast.** Sometimes you are asked to look at things in one passage, and sometimes you will compare and contrast two passages that have similarities and differences. Find the details in the passage(s) and organize them. Similarities are easier to find than differences.

3. **There are two kinds of comparison/contrast questions:** multiple-choice questions and READ/THINK/EXPLAIN questions. Don’t let the questions get you confused. Follow the steps below to stay on track.
   a) Make a comparison/contrast diagram like the example above. Label the two things you are comparing, and then list similarities and differences.
   b) Look for the comparison/contrast words in the list above.
   c) In writing your responses, make a statement (like a topic sentence) about why similarities and differences are important. You can also say the same thing again at the end (like a conclusion).
   d) Organize the main points you want to make in your comparison. Compare point by point or compare points by topic.

4. **Compare similarities and differences.** In comparison/contrast, we tell how two ideas or things are **alike** or how they are **different.** Sometimes something that is unknown will be compared and contrasted to something familiar to you. This Venn diagram organizes information comparing and contrasting baseball and soccer. It shows **both similarities and differences.**

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**DIFFERENCES**
- BASEBALL
  - BAT
  - BASES
  - SMALL BALL
  - PITCHER
  - RUNS

**SIMILARITIES**
- BOTH
  - ROUND BALL
  - GOOD ATHLETES
  - SPECTATORS
  - ACTION SPORTS
  - UNIFORMS

**DIFFERENCES**
- SOCCER
  - CLEETS
  - NET
  - LARGE BALL
  - GOALIE
  - GOALS

---

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5. **Learn key comparison/contrast words.** These words signal or point out a comparison or show a contrast. We can compare two or more things, people, or ideas. Some comparison words make equal comparisons (similarities), and others make unequal comparisons (differences). Review details in a text by skimming for comparison/contrast words.

6. **Equal comparisons.** Compare two people, things, or ideas with the same or equal qualities. Here are some words to watch for and examples:

   a) **the same** (+ noun)
      
      The two girls have the same dress.
      
      The two sentences say the same thing.

   b) **the same as...** (+noun phrase)
      
      I have the same car as you.
      Girls are not the same as boys.

   c) **as...** (+ adjective/adverb) **as**...
      
      Vladimir is as tall as Thiago.
      
      My watch is as expensive as your watch.
      I work as diligently as I can.
7. **Unequal comparisons.** Compare and contrast people, things, or ideas with similar or different (unequal) qualities. Here are some words to watch for and examples.

a) **like.** *Students in this class are like students in all other classes.*

b) **alike.** *Jose and Rudy look alike.*

c) **similar to.** *This flower is similar to that flower in shape and color.*

d) **different from.** *A circle is different from a square.*

e) **more than/more…+(adjective/adverb/noun) than…**
   - *My CD player cost more money than yours.*
   - *This book is more interesting than that one.*
   - *I walk more slowly than you walk.*

f) **less…+(adjective/adverb/noun) than…**
   - *Julia has less time than the other students do.*

   - *This play is less serious than the other play.*
   - *He works less efficiently than Joseph.*
   - *My suit cost less than that one.*

g) **(adjective+ -er) than…** *She is much happier than her friends are.*

h) **But.** *A lemon is sour, but an apple is sweet.*

i) **but…affirmative/negative.** *I like chocolate, but Maria doesn’t.*
   - *An elephant doesn’t fly, but a bird does.*

j) **nearly/almost as…+(adjective) as…**
   - *James is almost (nearly) as tall as Rolfe is.*
   - *This class is nearly as easy as PE class.*

k) **the most…+(adjective).** *The most beautiful girl in the world is my mother.*

l) **the…(adjective+ -est).** *The fastest car in the race will win.*

m) **one of the…(adjective+ -est) + noun.** *One of the best days is Sunday.*

8. **Activity.** Students can work in groups to combine the following statements by using the comparison/contrast words. Have groups share answers with the class. Point out that there can be more than one way to make a comparison or show contrast. Have students continue to work in groups to write their own original comparisons.

   **Examples:**
   - *Maria has the red dress. Josefina has the red dress too.*
   - *(Maria and Josefina have the same red dress.)*
   
   - *Joe’s car is new. Bill’s car is old.*
   - *(Joe’s car is different from Bill’s car.)*
   
   - *The blue house has four bedrooms. The yellow house has five bedrooms.*
   - *(The blue house is almost as large as the yellow one.)*

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a) Marta likes hot dogs and cherry coke. Wilfredo does too.
b) Sports cars have two doors. Family cars have four doors.
c) Paul is 5'6" tall. Milee is 5'8" tall. Miko is 6'2" tall.
d) I have ten dollars. You have twenty-five dollars. Mom has fifty dollars.
e) My dog is 10 pounds. My sister’s dog is seventy pounds.
f) I like soup. My best friend doesn’t.
g) My motorcycle jumped 200’. The world record is 228’.
h) Oranges are orange. Apples are red.
i) Some people are nice. Some people are mean.
j) My hair is short and curly. Suzanne’s hair is short and straight.
k) French fries are taste pretty good. Rice is really delicious.
l) A giraffe’s neck is thin. A bird’s neck is very thin.
m) This book is interesting. That book is very interesting.
n) Florida is a large state. Alaska is a very large state.
o) Texas is hot. Florida is very hot.
COMPARE & CONTRAST

Complete the chart by comparing and contrasting the old man and the narrator in Edgar Allan Poe’s story, “The Tell-tale Heart.” Think about the characters, events, motivation, setting, and resolution.

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**COMPARE & CONTRAST: DECISION-MAKING MODEL**

**TITLE/TOPIC(TEXT** _________________________________

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COMPARE & CONTRAST: DECISION-MAKING MODEL

TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT _________________________________

QUESTION OR CHOICES

NO

YES

CONCLUSIONS

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**CONCLUSIONS**
Name _____________________________________

COMPARE & CONTRAST: INTENSITY

TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT _________________________________

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LOW

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## COMPARE & CONTRAST

**TITLE/TOPI/TXT**

Comparing:
- A. _______________________
- B. _______________________

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COMPARE & CONTRAST

TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT _________________________________

Event 1

Different

Same

Different

Same

Different

Same

Different

Same

Different

Same

Different

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DETERMINE THE METHOD OF ORGANIZATION OF A READING

COMPARISON/CONTRAST PATTERNS
A Comparison/contrast pattern tells how two ideas, places, people or things are alike and how they differ. Something that is unknown can be compared and contrasted to something familiar.

Example: This Venn diagram organizes information comparing and contrasting Team A and Team B. It shows both similarities and differences.

Title/Topic/Text ____________________________

DIFFERENT  SAME  DIFFERENT

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COMPARE & CONTRAST: 3-WAY VENN DIAGRAM

TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT _________________________________

Comparing: A.________________________________________________________
B.________________________________________________________
C.________________________________________________________

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