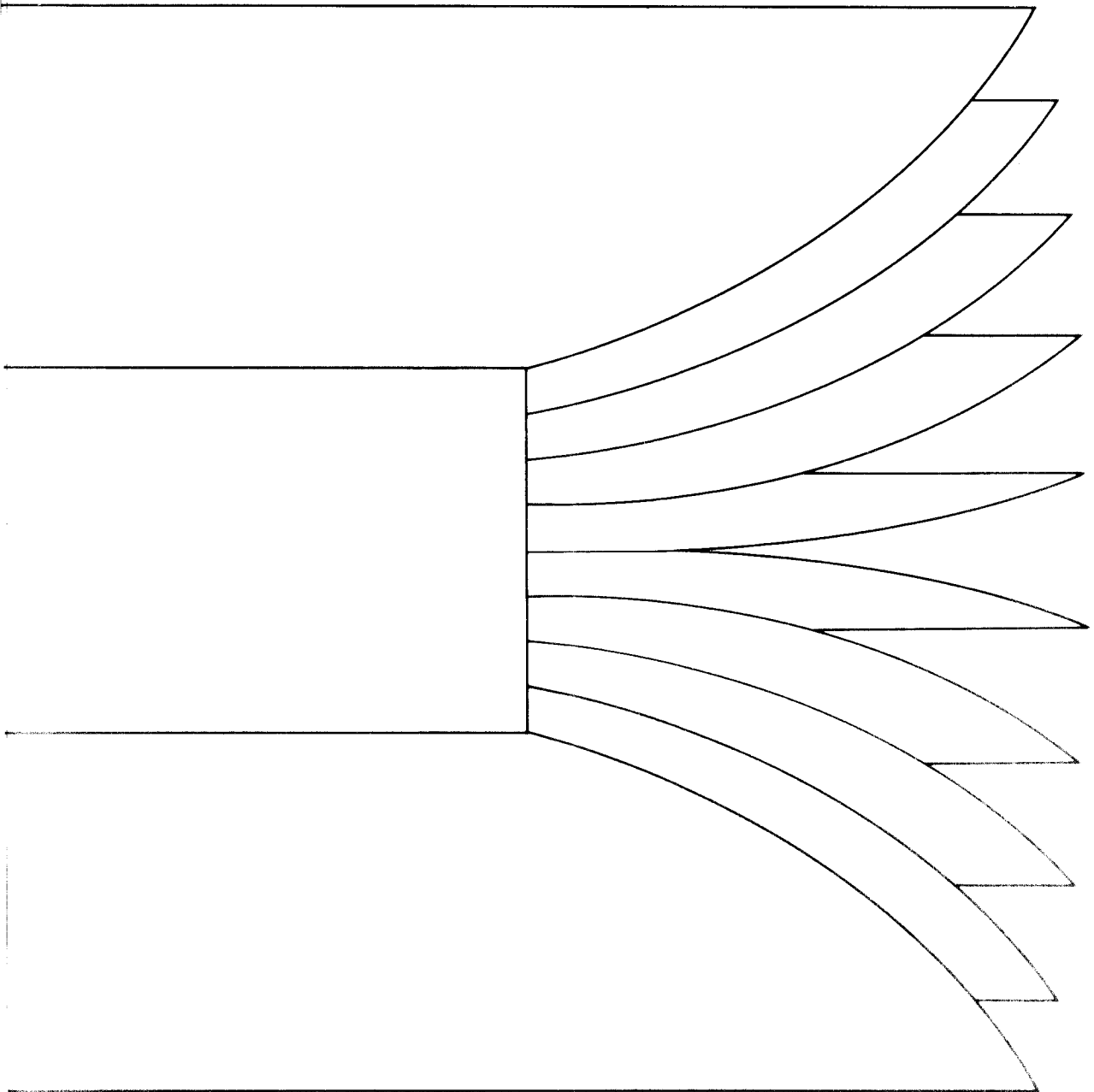


SKILLS FOR LEARNING Foundation



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Lesson 14

Comparing and contrasting (1)

In this lesson you will see how writers use language to describe things which are the same and things which are different.

Activity A

CLASS WORK
PAIR WORK . .

Similar or different (1)

Here are four pairs of sentences.

Decide whether the sentences in each pair are saying the same thing or whether they are saying different things. Give reasons for your decision.

- 1 The answer to the first question is obvious.
The answer to the second question is difficult to find.
Are both answers difficult to find? Can you tell? If not, why not?
- 2 The answer to the first question is obvious.
But the answer to the second question is difficult to find.
Are both answers difficult to find? How do you know?
- 3 John is talkative.
His brother is loquacious.
Are John and his brother similar or different? Can you tell? If not, why not?
- 4 Fatimah is very talkative.
Her sister is loquacious, too.
Are Fatimah and her sister alike? How do you know? What do they both do a lot?

Note: See Appendix 1 for a list of words expressing similarities and differences.

Activity B

PAIR WORK . .

Similar or different? (2)

Here are eight short texts.

Read each text and then answer the questions that follow. Note down your answers, either 'Yes' or 'No'.

- 1 Like most big cities, Cairo has a traffic problem. There are too many cars on too few roads.
 - a Is Cairo a big city?
 - b Do most big cities, including Cairo, have too many cars on too few roads?

Lesson 14

- 2 For some reason, African students avoid riding bicycles if they possibly can, whereas in Europe most students ride bicycles.
Are African and European students similar?
- 3 Although a motor-cycle is much smaller than a lorry, it is just as noisy. Sometimes it is even noisier.
Are lorries and motor-cycles similar?
- 4 Many small towns in the USA resemble each other. Some may be bigger than others, but they look very much the same.
Is the writer interested in the differences between small towns in the USA?
- 5 One way to distinguish a monkey from an ape, e.g. an orang utan, is the presence or absence of a tail. All monkeys have tails whereas apes lack them.
Do apes have tails?
- 6 The gorilla, the largest of all the apes, is solely a vegetable eater. Humans, on the other hand, are carnivores as well as vegetarians.
 - a Are gorillas vegetarians?
 - b Is a carnivore a meat eater?
 - c Do gorillas eat meat?
- 7 If men had claws instead of hands they could not make tools.
 - a Do men have claws?
 - b Do you think monkeys might be able to make tools?
- 8 Gorillas are peaceful animals. With humans, however, the reverse is true. They are the most belligerent creatures in nature.
 - a Are gorillas belligerent as well as peaceful?
 - b If creatures are belligerent, do they fight?
 - c Are gorillas creatures?

Activity C

PAIR WORK ■ ■

Organize a text (1)

The text below has been broken up into five parts.

Decide on the correct order of the five parts of the text and number them in your exercise book from 1–5.

- a People can move from place to place much faster by aeroplane than by car.
- b The air journey from London to Edinburgh takes 50 minutes.
- c Few people can afford the price.
- d By car it takes eight hours.
- e On the other hand, air travel is much more expensive.

Lesson 14

Activity D

INDIVIDUAL WORK
PAIR WORK . .

Organize a text (2)

The text below has been broken up into eight parts.

Decide on the correct order of the eight parts of the text and number them in your exercise book from 1–8.

- a They have similar bodies, for example.
- b They both have hands rather than claws.
- c Both men and apes can use tools.
- d Man, however, is unique because he can make plans.
- e Man has always been interested in apes because they are like him in so many ways.
- f Likewise, neither has a tail.
- g They also both have large brains.
- h But man's brain is four times the size of a chimpanzee's.

Activity E

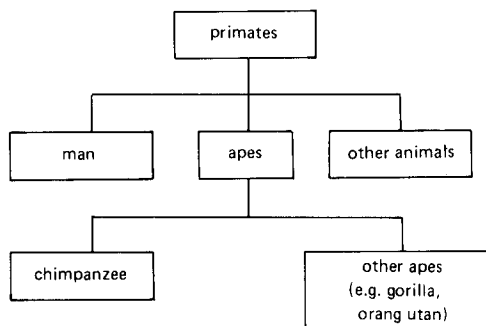
INDIVIDUAL WORK
GROUP WORK

Read for information

Here are five ideas and a long text on men and apes.

Read the text to decide whether each idea agrees with what the writer says. Write down the answer 'Yes' or 'No'.

- 1 The diagram below shows the relationship between men, apes and other animals.



- 2 If the capacity of the head which contains man's brain is 1200–1500 c.c., then the chimpanzee's is 350–450 c.c.
- 3 Man is unique in his ability to make fire.
- 4 If apes lived with man they could learn human language.
- 5 The differences between men and apes are greater than the similarities.

MEN AND APES

Man has always been interested in apes because they are at the same time so like him and so unlike him. In their basic anatomy or body structure, they are very similar and for this reason they are both classified as primates, the highest form of animal. They also resemble each other in having hands and feet instead of claws (like cats) or hooves (like horses). Likewise, neither has a tail.

Both men and apes have large brains compared to their body size, and this helps again to distinguish them from other species of animals. But, compared to the chimpanzee, for example, man's brain is four times as large. Like man, apes can use tools. For example, an ape may pick up a stick and put it in an ants' nest to make the ants come out. Similarly, apes have been known to make tools, e.g. by breaking off branches to use as sticks. Man, however, is quite different, in fact, unique among animals, because he can make a plan, and then make a tool by following that plan.

All human beings everywhere have a language, and there are thousands of different languages in the world. All these languages are equally complex, and they are very different from the cries of apes and other animals.

Finally, we can use fire-making to differentiate men from apes. Man has possessed the secret of making fire for thousands of years. In contrast, neither apes nor any other animals possess this secret.

□ □ □ □

Activity F

INDIVIDUAL WORK

Complete the sentences

Here are eight sentences with blanks.

Use information from the text on men and apes to complete the sentences.

- 1 Men and apes differ little in their _____.
- 2 Like apes, men have no _____.
- 3 Both men and apes have _____ instead of claws or hooves.
- 4 Both apes and men differ from other animals in having _____.
- 5 Apes can make and use simple tools. Only man, however, can _____.
- 6 There is a big contrast between the language _____.
- 7 It is possible that a chimpanzee has struck a match on a matchbox and made fire, but only man _____.
- 8 In an experiment in the United States, a baby ape was raised with a human family, but it did not _____.

Build your word power

Choose the appropriate word or phrase to complete each of the texts given below.

- 1 These two boys are twins and they _____ each other very closely. The only difference is in their height.
a control b resemble c describe
- 2 Mary is a well-behaved girl. Her brother, however, is the _____. He always gets into trouble.
a example b illustration c reverse
- 3 If the _____ of a bottle is one litre, then a bottle half its size can hold half a litre.
a capacity b proportion c contents
- 4 When something is _____ it is difficult to understand or explain, or to break down into smaller parts.
a analysed b exact c complex
- 5 We were able to _____ between her room and the others because her door is a different colour.
a vary b differentiate c set
- 6 _____ a cat and a lion. Although they both belong to the same family, a cat is tame and kept as a pet whereas a lion is not.
a Check b Release c Compare
- 7 The previous teacher used to give long and dull lectures. In _____, the new teacher makes the lectures interesting and enjoyable.
a sequence b contrast c proportions
- 8 You will not be able to _____ your enemy if you both work in the same office.
a avoid b meet c locate
- 9 We have just bought a house. We do not have much money left and therefore cannot _____ a new car.
a require b afford c distinguish
- 10 He prefers to watch television _____ do his homework. If he watched television and did his homework, he would not get into trouble with his tutor.
a as well as b rather than c or