

## Definition

**Comparing:** the process of identifying similarities and differences between or among things or ideas

Technically, the term *comparing* refers to the process of identifying similarities, and the term *contrasting* refers to the process of identifying differences. Most educators, however, use the term *comparing* to refer to both.

## Steps for Comparing

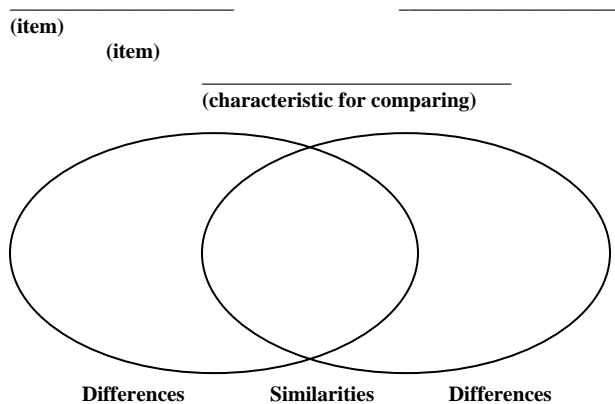
- 1) Select the items you want to compare.
- 2) Select the characteristics of the items on which you want to base your comparison.
- 3) Explain how the items are similar and different with respect to the characteristics.
- 4) Communicate your conclusion/summary/application

## Key Points About Comparing

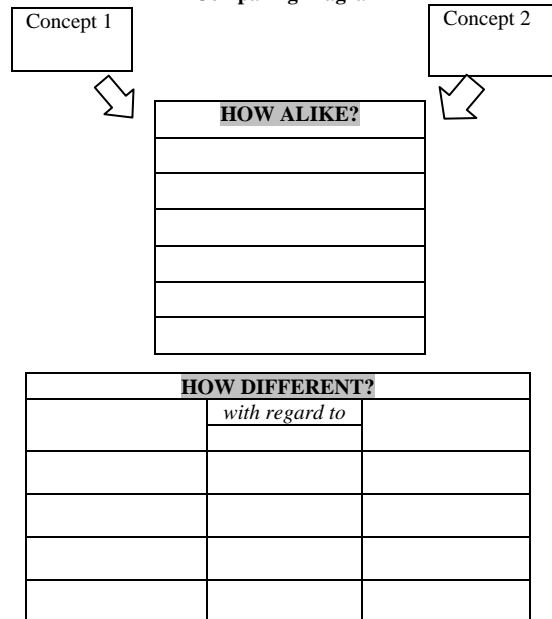
- The key to an effective comparison is the identification of important characteristics.
- The characteristics are used as the basis for which similarities and differences are identified.

## Tools

Comparing Using A Venn Diagram



Comparing Diagram



Comparison Matrix

Characteristics	Items to be compared		Similarities (sim)/differences (diff)
1			Sim
			Diff
2			Sim
			Diff