

L.O. Use a range of conjunctions to compare and contrast information.

What are conjunctions? What purpose do they have?

Have a quick discussion with your partner and share your ideas with the class.

Conjunctions can help us add to our ideas, **contrast** them, **compare** them, **explain** them and **emphasise** them. How many different ways can we link these two sentences?

I'd like to go out for the day.

The dogs need a walk.

Today, we will focus specifically on those conjunctions that contrast differences and compare similarities:

Conjunctions to compare similarities	Conjunctions to contrast differences
Also, Equally, Like Both In the same way (that) Similarly, / ; similarly, Likewise As with	but However, / ; however, Unlike whereas On the other hand, Instead of Alternatively, Despite (the fact that) although

Read your copy of the following passage with your partner, then use two colours to underline any conjunctions that compare similarities or contrast differences:

Both of us own dogs, and although they are similar in many ways, there are also some differences.

In the same way that your dog has long hair, mine has a rough coat, which takes a lot of looking after. Both of them need grooming every day; they also need a bath at least once a week in the wet months of winter. My dog is quite large and has a big appetite; similarly, yours eats two tins of dog food a day and always seems to be hungry.

However, here the similarities end. Your dog is so active and full of energy, that you have to get up an hour earlier than me to walk it at least four miles in the morning, whatever the weather.

On the other hand, my dog is incredibly lazy and practically needs to be dragged out of its bed, especially if it's raining. Instead of an enthusiastic tail-wagging greeting, I am met with a pair of doleful eyes that seem to beg me for another half an hour's sleep. This suits me, though, because unlike you, I'm as lazy as my dog.

Despite the fact that our dogs have different characteristics, we both love our pets and they suit our own personalities down to the ground.

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Now it's your turn to compare and contrast the information given about three of the biomes. Write a short paragraph, using a range of conjunctions to link some of the information on the information sheet. You can also use the passage about dogs to give you some ideas about how to use the conjunctions and how to set out your writing - for instance, did you notice that the dog text had a short introduction and conclusion?

Tundra:

- It's cold - The tundra is the coldest of the biomes. The average temperature in the tundra is around -28 degrees Celsius. The average summer is only 1°C to 12°C.
- Tundra is very dry. It receives 15 to 20cm of precipitation a year (mostly snow).
- Below the tundra, the ground has a layer of permafrost, which never thaws.
- It's barren - the soil has few nutrients to support plants and animal life.
- There are around 400 species of flowering plants and 48 different types of animals.
- Arctic tundra is found in the arctic and sub-arctic regions, within the Arctic Circle.
- Alpine tundra can be found high in mountainous areas around the world.

Desert:

- Many deserts are very hot in the daytime (reaching 48 degrees) but get less than 25cm of rain a year.
- They can be found in every continent of the world, except Europe, and are particularly common in the north and south of the Equator.
- Some deserts support a wide variety of flora and fauna, although in some, the harsh desert (in south western USA) is home to 100 species of birds, 130 species of mammals, more than 100 species of reptiles and more than 2,500 plant species.

Temperate deciduous forest:

- These are found mainly in the north of the Equator in eastern United States, Canada, Europe, China, Japan and parts of Russia, but also in southern Australia and South America.
- Summers are warm and moist (reaching around 17°C in the UK), with cool winters (1°C in the UK).
- Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in winter) are the main feature, with oaks, birches and ground cover making up the rest of the plants in the biome.
- Deciduous forests receive 75 to 250 cm of rain a year, with at least 120 days without frost.
- There are a wide variety of plant and animal species in the biome, second only to tropical rainforests.

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