

# Confusable words

## 'compare' and 'contrast'

### compare (verb)

Definition: to look for similarities and differences between things

Use syllables and phonemes to decode and encode:

c o m | p a r e  
/c/ /o/ /m/ /p/ /air/

Use morphemes to comprehend:

**com**

com = 'with'  
(from Latin)

**pare**

pare = 'equal'  
(from Latin)

**com + pare =**

**to look at what is the same (equal) and different in things**

I had to **compare** two job offers.

### contrast (verb)

Definition: to find what is different between things

Use syllables and phonemes to decode and encode:

c o n t r a | s t  
/c/ /o/ /n/ /t/ /r/ /a/ /s/ /t/

Use morphemes to comprehend:

**contra**

contra = 'against'  
(from Latin)

**st**

stare = 'stand'  
(from Latin)

**contra + st =**

**to look and find the differences between things**

I had to **contrast** women's rights before and after the war.

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