

Similarities and Differences

Guided Discussion

Start with similarities.

Say this: Knowing how things are alike or different helps you understand and explain what you know. If someone asks you, "What's a banjo?" You could say, "It's like a guitar," and you've just shown that you know something very important about banjos.

Write this on the board: They both _____.

Talk about what similarities are. Use words that are curriculum relevant and hierarchy appropriate that can be answered with categories, parts, and functions. After a general understanding is achieved you could write this on the board:

They both are _____. They both (do) _____.
They both have _____. They're both _____.

Give easier practice questions using first categories for "They both are _____," then parts for "They both have _____," then functions for "They both (do) _____," and attributes for "They're both _____."

For example:

How are red and blue alike? (also use summer/spring, etc.)
How are birds and planes alike? (also use cars/bicycles, etc.)
How are pens and pencils alike? (microscopes/telescopes, etc.)
How are juice and rain alike? (feather/paper, etc.)

Combine, while asking for two similarities, for greater complexity.

For example:

Tell me two ways that birds and planes are alike. The student could answer with "They both have wings." (parts), and "They both can fly." (functions or actions).

Continue to differences.

Write this on the board: One _____, and the other one _____.

Talk about what differences are. Use words that are curriculum relevant and hierarchy appropriate that can be answered with categories, parts, and functions. Use practice questions with similar format to similarities for categories, parts, and functions. For example:

Categories: How are Tuesday and March different? (One is a day of the week, and the other is a month.)

Parts: How are a doorknob and a foot different? (One is a part of a door, and the other is a part of the body.)

Functions: How are a watch and a trumpet different? (One tells time and the other one plays music.)

Attributes: How are a pillow and a brick different? (One is soft, and the other is hard.)