

Comparisons

Never compare apples to oranges - we want to compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges on this test! Comparisons need to be parallel (equal). **In a well-written sentence, properly used comparisons create strong, clear, parallel sentences.**

KEY: Simply think of a crane and pick up the noun/subject on the left side of the comparison, and move this noun/subject to the right side!

For example:

*Since **the novels** of Elizabeth Phelps are less well known today than many of **her contemporaries**, I was surprised to learn that she was once a best-selling author.* **Incorrect**

*Since **the novels** of Elizabeth Phelps are less well know today than many of her **contemporaries' novels**, I was surprised to learn that she was once a best-selling author.* **Correct**

KEY: Search for the words “than,” “as,” “similar to,” “equal to.” Circle these words and then THINK COMPARISON!

For example:

The judges ruled that Sam's cake tasted better than Joe. **INCORRECT**

Notice the way that this sentence illogically compares Sam's *cake* to a *person* (Joe).

In order to fix the sentence, make sure that you complete the implied comparison.

The judges ruled that Sam's cake tasted better than Joe's cake tasted. **CORRECT**

Reports show that a clerk's salary can be higher than a doctor. **INCORRECT**

Again, complete the implied comparison to fix this sentence and make it logical.

Reports show that a clerk's salary can be higher than that of a doctor. **CORRECT**

Reports show that a clerk's salary can be higher than a doctor's salary. **CORRECT**

Key: If a comparison is positioned at the end of the sentence and is implied, make sure to complete the comparison to ensure that the comparison is logical and equal.