

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Structure Comparison

Read the short story and answer each question.



Soccer vs. Basketball

Soccer and basketball are two of the most popular sports in the world. While they both involve teams, fast-paced action, and scoring goals or points, they are also very different in how they are played.

Soccer is played on a large grass or turf field, usually outdoors. Each team has 11 players who work together to move a round ball into the opposing team's goal. Players mostly use their feet, but goalkeepers can use their hands. Games are 90 minutes long and are often low-scoring.

Basketball is played on a hard court, usually indoors. Each team has 5 players who use their hands to bounce and shoot a round ball into a raised hoop. The game is divided into four quarters and often has higher scores than soccer.

Both sports require teamwork, strong communication, and quick decision-making. Soccer players need endurance because they run almost nonstop, while basketball players need speed, agility, and precise ball control.

Even though the rules and styles are different, both sports bring fans together, encourage healthy competition, and require players to train and practice hard.



Name: _____

Soccer vs. Basketball

1. How does the author show the difference in how the two sports are played?

- A. The author compares how players move, score, and use equipment in each sport.
- B. The author explains the rules of only one sport.
- C. The author describes a single game with no comparison.
- D. The author uses a timeline to show the history of both sports.

2. How is the structure of this passage helpful for understanding the topic?

- A. It uses comparison to clearly show what is similar and different between the sports.
- B. It tells a story about two athletes.
- C. It explains how both sports were invented.
- D. It uses cause and effect to show what happens when players train.

3. Fill in the blank:

The author uses a _____ and _____ structure to explain how soccer and basketball are alike and different.

4. Explain how the author organizes the information to show both the differences and similarities between soccer and basketball.

5. How would understanding the structure of this passage help someone write about two other sports?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: S

Lexile Level: 850L-1000L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational – Sports

Introducing the Text

“This passage uses a compare-and-contrast structure to help students understand how two popular sports—soccer and basketball—are alike and different. Students will explore how the author uses side-by-side descriptions to show key similarities and differences in playing style, equipment, and physical demands.”

Vocabulary: goalkeeper, hoop, endurance, court, competition

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to compare and contrast two things?
 2. What are some ways that sports can be similar and different?
 3. Why might an author choose to write about two topics at the same time?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
 2. What signal words or sentence structures help show when the author is comparing or contrasting?
 3. What details does the author use to show differences between soccer and basketball?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does using a compare-and-contrast structure help you understand the topic better?
 2. What is one similarity and one difference between the two sports that stood out to you?
 3. How could you apply this structure to write about two other sports or activities?
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Activity Idea

Ask students to choose two other sports (such as baseball and softball or swimming and running) and write a short paragraph comparing and contrasting them.

Encourage them to use transition words like *both*, *while*, *however*, and *on the other hand* to mirror the structure used in the passage.

