

English Grammar – Comparisons

We often want to compare two things, people, events or situations. Useful ways to do this are using the following expressions:

- to be different from
- to be similar to
- to be equal to
- to compare _____ with/to _____
- compared with/to
- in comparison with/to
- to contrast _____ with _____
- in contrast to
- to be (not) the same as
- to be (not) the same ____ (adjective) ____ as
- to be ____ (comparative) ____ than / more ____ (adjective) ____ than
- to be (not) as ____ (adjective) ____ as

Remember:

different **from**
similar/equal **to**
compared **with/to**
the same **as**
bigger **than**

As you can see, these expressions use different prepositions (*from, to, as, with, than*). Here are some examples, comparing Brazil with England:

- Living in Brazil **is different from** living in England.
- The Brazilian weather **is different from** the English weather.
- The food in Brazil **is very different from** (that in) England.
- Brazilian shopping malls **are similar to** English ones.
- The weather in Curitiba **is similar to** (that in) London.
- Internet speeds in Brazil **are similar to** (those in) England.
- Let's **compare** Brazil **with** England.
- Now I want to **compare** England **to** Brazil.
- Brazil is hot **compared with** England.
- England is cold **compared to** Brazil.
- **In comparison with** England, Brazil is very big.
- **In comparison to** Brazil, England is very small.
- Let's **contrast** England **with** Brazil.
- **In contrast to** England, Brazil is not yet a fully developed country.
- Cellphones in Brazil **are the same as** (those) in England.
- English beef **is not the same as** Brazilian beef.
- English beaches **are** definitely **not the same as** Brazilian ones.
- Brazilians **are the same height as** the English.
- Valentine's Day in Brazil **is not on the same date as** in England.
- England **is not the same size as** Brazil.
- Brazil **is bigger than** England.
- Corruption in Brazil **is more widespread than** in England.
- São Paulo **is as cosmopolitan as** London.
- Portuguese pronunciation **is not as complicated as** (that of) English.

Exercise. Compare the following things using the suggested expressions:

Examples: a) Hawaii, Alaska, “different from”

--> Hawaii is *different from* Alaska.

b) Hawaii, Alaska, “different from”, weather

--> The weather in Alaska is *different from* (that in) Hawaii.

1. apples, oranges, “different from”

2. pizza, sfiha, “similar to”

3. the German economy, the English economy, “compared with”, strong

4. the south of Brazil, the northeast of Brazil, “in comparison to”, cold

5. São Paulo, Curitiba, “in contrast to”, organized

6. pineapple, ananas, “the same as”

7. whisky, cachaça, “the same color as”

8. whisky, cachaça, “not the same taste as”

9. São Paulo, London, “bigger than”

10. dogs, cats, “not as independent as”
