

# Compare and contrast

## Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

When we **compare** two things, we tell how they are **alike**.

When we **contrast** two things, we tell how they are **different**.

Here are two stories. As you read, think about how the stories are **alike** and how they are **different**.

### The Helpful Hike

Aria and her younger brother Mateo joined a group hike through a state park. Each hiker carried a backpack filled with water, snacks and a small first-aid kit. Aria had hiked before and felt confident. Mateo, however, was new to hiking and wasn't sure what to expect. At first, the trail was easy. The path was flat, and Mateo kept up with the group. Soon, though, the trail became steep and rocky. Mateo slowed down and began to fall behind. His backpack felt heavier with each step. He grew tired and uncomfortable.

Aria noticed her brother struggling. She quietly took one of his snack packs and his water bottle to lighten his load. With a smaller burden, Mateo was able to keep walking.



### The Shortcut Trouble

Seth and his cousin Jayden walked home from school on a warm spring afternoon. Their usual path followed a long sidewalk that stretched past houses and stores.

On this day, Jayden noticed a dirt path that led into the woods. He believed it would be a quicker way home. So, instead of staying on the sidewalk, the boys turned onto the trail. It was easy to follow at first, but as they walked deeper into the woods, the ground grew muddy. Seth slipped in the mud and fell. Jayden tried to help but lost his balance and fell too. Now both boys were wet and covered in dirt!



They reached the top of the hill just as the sun peeked through the trees. A stream sparkled in the sunlight, and a deer stepped into view to take a drink. Mateo took a deep breath and smiled. Aria watched him and felt glad she had helped. By the time they returned to the parking lot, Mateo was tired but proud. He had finished the hike, thanks to Aria's small act of kindness.

They tried to find their way back to the road, but the trail had split in several directions. The shortcut had turned into a maze. They finally found the correct path after wandering for a long time. When they reached home, they were late, muddy and frustrated. What was supposed to be a quick trip had taken much longer. The shortcut had seemed like a good idea at first, but in the end, it only caused problems.

**Some of the details below are true about just one of the stories. Some of the details are true about both stories. Some are not true about either story. Read each detail, and select the best answer.**

1. One of the characters gets help from someone.
  - a. "The Helpful Hike" only
  - b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
  - c. Both stories
  - d. Neither story
2. One of the characters makes a mistake.
  - a. "The Helpful Hike" only
  - b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
  - c. Both stories
  - d. Neither story
3. The characters go on a trip outdoors.
  - a. "The Helpful Hike" only
  - b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
  - c. Both stories
  - d. Neither story
4. A character slips and falls.
  - a. "The Helpful Hike" only
  - b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
  - c. Both stories
  - d. Neither story

5. The characters eat lunch at the end of their trip.
  - a. "The Helpful Hike" only
  - b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
  - c. Both stories
  - d. Neither story
  
6. The story includes an animal.
  - a. "The Helpful Hike" only
  - b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
  - c. Both stories
  - d. Neither story
  
7. The characters finish the story at home.
  - a. "The Helpful Hike" only
  - b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
  - c. Both stories
  - d. Neither story
  
8. The characters build something during their journey.
  - a. "The Helpful Hike" only
  - b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
  - c. Both stories
  - d. Neither story
  
9. What is one other detail that is *alike* in the two stories?

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10. What is one other detail that is *different* in the two stories?

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## Answers

1. One of the characters gets help from someone.  
c. Both stories
2. One of the characters makes a mistake.  
b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
3. The characters go on a trip outdoors.  
c. Both stories
4. A character slips and falls.  
b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
5. The characters eat lunch at the end of their trip.  
d. Neither story
6. The story includes an animal.  
a. "The Helpful Hike" only
7. The characters finish the story at home.  
b. "The Shortcut Trouble" only
8. The characters build something during their journey.  
d. Neither story
9. What is one other detail that is *alike* in the two stories?  
*Answers will vary but must be taken from the stories.*
10. What is one other detail that is *different* in the two stories?  
*Answers will vary but must be taken from the stories.*