



## Compare and contrast

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### Reading Comprehension Worksheet

#### Practice

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

When we **contrast** two things, we tell how they are *different*.  
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As you read the story, think about how the characters are *alike*, and how they are *different*.

#### The Fox and the Woodcutter

A Fox, being chased by a Hunter on horseback and his pack of hounds, ran into the forest to hide. The Fox came across a Woodcutter who was chopping away at an oak tree. The Fox begged the Woodcutter to show him a safe hiding-place.

The Woodcutter pointed to his own small hut just down the road, and told the Fox to go and take shelter there. The Fox hurried to the hut and hid himself in a corner inside.

The Hunter soon rode up with his barking hounds. Seeing the Woodcutter, the Hunter asked him if he had seen the Fox. The Woodcutter laid down his axe. "I have seen no Fox, though I have been working here all morning," he said. But all the time that he was speaking, he was pointing to his hut where the Fox was hiding.

The Hunter took no notice of the pointing, but believed the Woodsman's words. He rode quickly on down the road to continue the chase.

As soon as the Hunter and the hounds were well away, the Fox came out and trotted off down the road, without taking any notice of the Woodcutter. Seeing this, the Woodcutter shouted after him. "You ungrateful fellow! You owe your life to me, and yet you leave me without a single word of thanks."

The Fox looked back over his shoulder, and replied, "Indeed, I would have thanked you greatly if your actions had been as helpful as your words. But your hands denied your speech!"

Some of these details are true of the Fox only. Some are true of the Woodcutter only. Some are true of both characters. Some are not true of either. Read each detail, and select the best answer.

1. ...was being chased
  - A. The Fox
  - B. The Woodcutter
  - C. Both characters
  - D. Neither character
  
2. ...offered a hiding place
  - A. The Fox
  - B. The Woodcutter
  - C. Both characters
  - D. Neither character
  
3. ...had barking hounds
  - A. The Fox
  - B. The Woodcutter
  - C. Both characters
  - D. Neither character
  
4. ...acted friendly in the beginning of the story
  - A. The Fox
  - B. The Woodcutter
  - C. Both characters
  - D. Neither character
  
5. ...talked to the Hunter
  - A. The Fox
  - B. The Woodcutter
  - C. Both characters
  - D. Neither character
  
6. ...hid until the Hunter was gone
  - A. The Fox
  - B. The Woodcutter
  - C. Both characters
  - D. Neither character
  
7. ...thanked the Hunter
  - A. The Fox
  - B. The Woodcutter
  - C. Both characters
  - D. Neither character
  
8. ...should have said "thank you"
  - A. The Fox
  - B. The Woodcutter
  - C. Both characters
  - D. Neither character

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9. What is one other detail that is *alike* or *different* about the two characters?

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## Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. D
8. D
9. Accept any reasonable response.