

Lesson 5: Similarities and Differences (class Vi-Viii)
Materials Developed by: BRAC University Centre for Languages

Hello,
Here is another fun page for you. We hope you will like it. Enjoy and learn!

A Why is Ramadan exceptional?



Ramadan is a special month for the Muslims all over the world. This month is different from the other months of the year in many ways. First of all, during Ramadan, Muslims around the world get up **earlier** in the morning. They eat *Sehri* so that they can fast until the *Magrib* prayers. Secondly, prayer becomes **more important** for the Muslims than any other activities in this month. They ask forgiveness to God for their sins. Also, people sacrifice more in this month. Distributing food and money among the poor is a common practice in the month of Ramadan. People also become **more respectful** to each other. Thus, this month is exceptional from other months.

What other differences do you observe in terms of activities and behaviour of people around you during Ramadan? Discuss with your friends.

B Did you notice the words and phrases used to talk about differences in the above mentioned activity? Yes, we need to use specific forms of adjectives to compare two things. Now, fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of the adjectives given.



Michael is an American boy and Akio is Japanese. Both of them study in class VII. Michael is _____ (tall) than Akio. He is fair and has brown hair. Also, he is 2 years _____ (old) than Akio. Michael often eats hot dogs with mustard. On the other hand, Akio has dark hair and his eyes are _____ (small) than Michael's. Though Akio is _____ (young), he

is _____ (smart) than Michael. He stands first in all his examinations. Akio eats _____ (healthy) food than Michael does. He likes to have noodles using chopsticks. Both Michael and Akio love spending their leisure time watching television. Tom and Jerry is their favourite TV program.



Guidelines: Comparative forms of adjectives are of two types. The words which have more than one syllable (care-ful), take 'more' in their comparative forms like 'more careful'. However, we add 'er' to one syllabic- adjectives (large) to make them comparatives like 'larger'.

C Do you know that tigers and cats belong to the same family? They have several things in common. First, some of their physical features are similar. Tigers have round yellow eyes, long whiskers and large pointed teeth. Likewise, cats have similar eyes, whiskers and teeth though they are smaller than those of tigers. Next, tigers and cats hunt in similar ways. Like cats, tigers silently approach their prey (the animals they want to catch). The pads under their feet help them move without making any sound. Furthermore, tigers have the same habit and behaviour like cats. Tigers sleep between 16 and 20 hours a day, and they love to take rest in the sun. Similarly, house cats rest on a mat or on the roof almost all day. Both the animals love to jump and play, and they like independence.



That was all about the cat family. Did you notice the words in **Bold** in the text? Those words are very important when you talk about similarities between two things. They link ideas/sentences in a text. Can you use those words in your writing?



There are also some linking/transitional words which are used to show differences. Such words are used in the following text. Underline those words and make sentences with them.

Have you ever heard of penguins and hummingbirds? Though they are birds, they are totally different from each other. Firstly, hummingbirds differ from penguins in their size and appearance. They are the smallest birds in the world found in the Americas. They have long, straight bills and pointed wings. On the



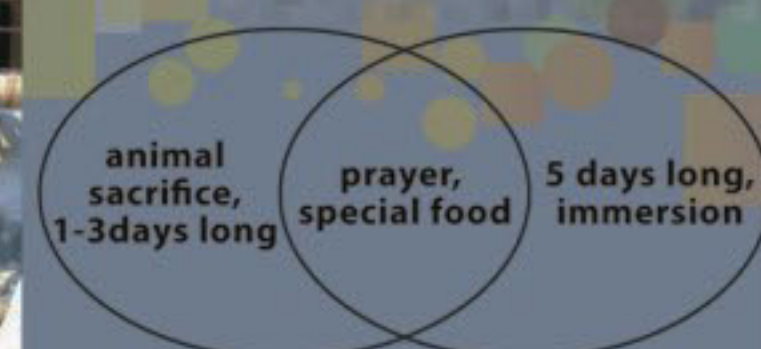
other hand, penguins are much bigger than hummingbirds and have black and white body. The second difference is in their food habit. Hummingbirds drink nectar - a sweet liquid found inside flowers; but, penguins eat fish. Another difference is in the living style of these two birds. Penguins cannot fly. They spend half of their lives in water and use their wings for swimming, whereas hummingbirds fly from flower to flower and most of them die during the first year of their lives.

E Use appropriate transitional words in the gaps.

but, similarly, both, on the other hand, whereas

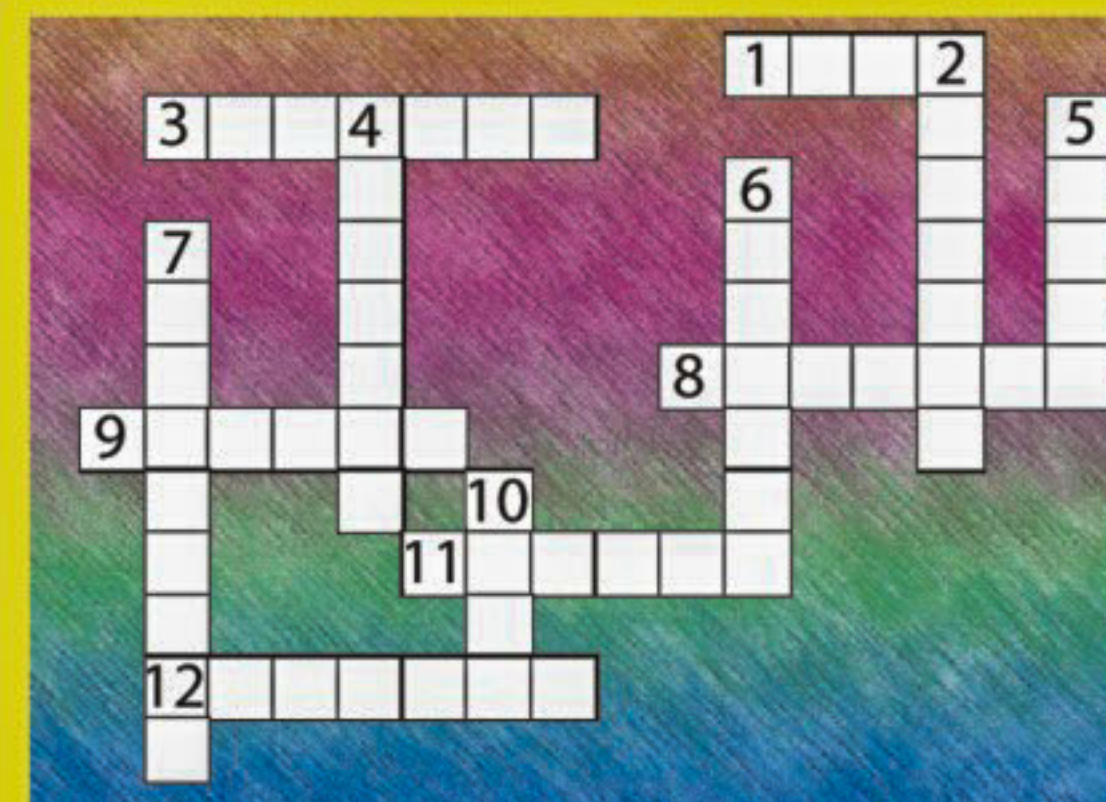
Mangoes and oranges are similar in some ways. _____ of them are juicy and delicious. Mangoes are very nutritious. _____ oranges are good for health. However, they have a lot of differences. We get mangoes in Summer, _____ oranges in Winter. Mangoes and oranges have different smell, taste and flavour. Mangoes have only one seed, _____ oranges have a lot of seeds. Oranges have thick skin and are orange in colour; _____ mangoes have thin skin and they are green or yellow. (Find answers in the next issue.)

F Look at the following diagram. It shows the similarities and differences between Eid-ul-Azha and Durga Puja. Write a paragraph comparing the two festivals in the space given. You have to mention two similarities and two differences.



There are lot of similarities as well as differences between Eid-ul-Azha and Durga Puja

G Puzzle



Across

- expensive, more expensive, the _____ expensive
- fancy, _____, the fanciest
- Big, Bigger, the _____
- good, _____, the best
- loose, _____, the loosest
- sunny, _____, the sunniest

Down

- tight, _____, the tightest
- cheap, _____, the cheapest
- bad, worse, the _____
- plain, _____, the plainest
- lovely, lovelier, the _____
- colourful, _____, the most colourful

Find solution to the puzzle in the next issue.

(source: internet)

Trees are the seeds of life...

Trees take care of our life and living. Destroying trees impacts the ecosystem and may endanger our life. We should help Mother Nature by planting more and more trees.

Let us plant at least one tree today and make Bangladesh greener.

