Unit 8 – Lesson 14

Comparing and Contrasting using expressions of comparisons

Comparison means showing ‘likenesses’. Comparison is done only between two equal objects and similar characteristics. Contrast means ‘showing differences’. We generally show likenesses and differences between two persons, ideas, actions or things for the purpose of clarifying meaning for making a point. We generally use the technique of comparison and contrast in order to convince the reader of an idea. We have – that is X is better than Y – more intelligent, very gregarious, systematic etc. For several reasons the comparison contrast theme requires strong control of thesis and organization. Initially you have more basic material to work with two subject areas. Next you have to know everything about both X and Y. Finally your theme must have a point to make beyond the obvious one of simply comparing and contrasting. Once you have a framework of points of comparison select from your lists, the characteristics and details about the subject. List them.

There are two methods of organizing the material when you use the rhetorical strategy, comparison and contrast. The Block method, we discuss one paragraph of comparison and one on contrast giving about equal time to each. In the part to part or point by point method, one in comparison and one in contrast show similarities and difference. In choosing the pattern, choose the one which you would feel free to express and also have the audience in mind and discuss the same.

Example

There are very significant differences between fairy tales and dreams. In dreams, more often than not the wish fulfilment is disguised, while in fairy tales much of it is openly expressed. To considerable degree dreams are the result of inner pressures which have found no relief, of problems which beset a person to which he knows no solution and to which the dream finds none. The fairy tales does the opposite; it projects the relief for all pressures and not only offers ways to solve problems but promises that a happy solution to be found.

The above paragraph discusses similarities and differences between fairy tales and dreams. Notice how points are organized. Spot out where the topic sentence appears. Specific details are given to support the statements. Finally it is made very clear how they differ at the end. The dream does not find any solution for the problems while the fairy tale does the opposite; it projects the relief all pressures and not only offers ways to solve the problem but promises that a happy solution will be found.

In real life also we use comparison and contrast thinking at crucial hour of decision like the elective we choose in school based on the future career, which university we should go, which car to buy, choice in marriage etc. Sometimes even in career, when we plan for a change comparison and contrast thinking is very useful.
Comparison and contrast writing increases the understanding of concept by showing similarities or differences between it and another related concept.

Some tips:

**Similarity Terms**                      **Contrast Terms**

*Just as .... So*                         *In contrast*

*In the same way*                        *Unlike*

*Similarly*                              *On the other hand*

*Also*                                    *However*

*Likewise*                                *Whereas*
Unit 8 – Lesson 15

Discussing creative ideas

Two teachers are supposed to teach the parts of speech – basic grammar about noun, verb, adverb, adjective, preposition, conjunction etc. The first one starts explaining about what is a noun, verb and so on. The second one writes a small story on the board and makes the children read the story. Once she has arrested the interest of the audience gradually through the story she introduces the noun, verb family to the students. The second teacher is a better teacher as her approach is different and she is creative!

Creativity is not something that is confined to a gifted few. It is only in the mind. One has to set down consciously and learn to think differently, try to look for new avenues; new methods; the urge to be somebody different. When one makes a continuous effort to think differently then he becomes creative.

There are a few steps to be creative the first step is the preparation stage. If you want to create a better atmosphere in your college or workplace do not directly talk about the subject. Start discussing about certain institutions you know without disclosing the names. Talk about both the best and the bad gradually impress upon them to come out with their own opinions how to change their place for the better.

In the incubation stage, sub-consciously your mind is always occupied with new thoughts which you want to execute or introduce in your place. One part of your mind should work upon the change which would change the company or college into an ideal place.

The next stage is brightening stage where you try to implement all the bright ideas you have read and heard from people; make sure that the wonderful idea is well connected to your message.

The final stage is verification stage where you check the validity of your ideas. You can use your novel ideas in your presentation.

*Introduce your topic with a bang; make it very impressive.* Use colourful and star studded audio visuals. Define your topic give a spell bound introduction generate as many solutions as possible for all the questions asked. Brainstorm ideas with your teammates listen to everybody patiently. Try to take a decision which everybody would approve of. Reading books and discussing them can help one to trigger off their imagination or creative cells. Generally meet over a cup of tea and discuss new ideas. Creativity is an integral part of everyone and it is for you to tap it and bring it out. Discussing various topics helps one to think and grow and there buds the creativity. Conscious effort to nurture it would lead to creative ideas and discussions.