



## WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

### Video: Reptile Reunion

*Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure  
(part-part)*



### Parallel Construction Within Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure

Well-written passages that use compare-contrast nonfiction text structure follow a parallel construction. What that means is that the first feature the author discusses for dolphins (e.g., where they live) is the first feature discussed for whales. Whether the organizational pattern is whole-whole, part-part, or mixed, the parallel discussion continues for each additional feature (e.g., how they communicate, physical characteristics, and what they eat).

### Key Characteristics of Compare-Contrast Compositions

When using Compare-Contrast Text Structure in your writing, be sure to include a full range of details and points of comparison. You'll want to think about five key characteristics of compare-contrast compositions when you write. When composing using Compare-Contrast Text Structure, be sure to:

- Identify the two things you are comparing and contrasting
- Describe how the two things are alike
- Explain how the two things are different
- Use compare-contrast signal words (e.g., *alike*, *different*, *but*)
- Follow compare-contrast organization (e.g., introductory sentence, likenesses/differences, conclusion)

#### References:

Dickson, S. (1999). Integrating reading and writing to teach compare-contrast text structure: A research-based methodology. *Reading & Writing Quarterly*, 14, 49-79.

Englert, C. S., Raphael, T. E., Anderson, L. M., Anthony, H. M. & Stevens, D. D. (1991). Making strategies and self-talk visible: Writing instruction in regular and special education classrooms. *American Educational Research Journal*, 28(2), 337-372.