

如何用英文做比较？

Making Comparisons

Making comparisons is extremely important in the IELTS speaking test, especially when answering questions which include the words “differences”, “prefer”, “which...”, “changes”, “advantages” and “disadvantages”, as well as Part 2.

However, many students only make comparisons in a very basic way, such as:

“Eating at home is cheaper than eating out”,

But your level will be higher if you also express how big the contrast is. For example,

“Eating at home is much cheaper than eating out”. However, as well as “much”, there are lots of other phrases you can use. For example:

“Eating at home is far cheaper than eating out”.

“Travelling with others is a lot more fun than travelling on your own”

“Going to a concert live is way more exciting than watching one on TV”

“The pace of life in cities is quite a lot faster than the countryside”

“Life in the countryside is quite a bit more laid-back than life in the city”

“Swimming in the sea is considerably more dangerous than swimming in a pool”

(Please note: You can't say “quite faster than...”, but you can say “quite a lot faster than...” and “quite a bit faster than...” 别问 WHY，规则就是如此)

If the contrast is less, you could say:

“Studying with others is a bit more enjoyable than studying on your own”

“Travelling by coach is slightly more expensive than travelling by train”

“Newspapers are relatively more informative than magazines”

You can also use “generally”. For example:

“Photos of people are generally a bit more interesting to look at than photos of scenery”

If you have already used “more” when making a comparison, then the next time you can use “less”, in order to increase the variety of your language. For example:

“Watching a concert at home is a lot less fun than going to one live”

“Life in the countryside is generally less stressful than life in the city”

You can also use, “not as...as...”. For example:

“Watching a concert at home isn't as fun as watching it on TV”

“Mobile phones are generally not as expensive as they used to be”

Comparing the past and present:

You can use a variety of methods, such as:

Method 1:

“Cities are a lot more congested than they used to be”

“The air quality in my hometown isn’t as good as it used to be”

“Life is more stressful than it used to be”

Method 2:

“Cities have become a lot more congested”

“The air quality in most cities has got quite a lot worse”

“The quality of films in my country has improved quite a bit.”

Method 3:

“Most cities now are extremely congested, whereas in the past, there didn’t use to be that much traffic on the roads.”

“In the past, there used to be only a limited variety of restaurants, whereas nowadays, there’s a much wider range of places to eat at.”

“In the past, people used to spend a lot of their free time watching television, whereas nowadays, they’re probably spending more time on the Internet.”

Using “other”:

Many students just say, “.....than other...” For example,

“The service at Starbucks is better than other cafes”

But you could express yourself better by saying:

“.....than most other cafes”

“.....than many other cafes”

“.....than a lot of other cafes”

“.....than the majority of other cafes I've been to”