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PART I

Comparing and Contrasting

Authors have several ways to organize information. One way is to organize it by similarities and differences. When you note similarities between two things, people, actions, or ideas, you're **comparing** them. When you note differences between them, you're **contrasting** them. Comparing and contrasting as you read can help you make better sense of information by organizing it in your mind.

Read the passage. Then answer the question that follows.

Brown and White Pelicans

In the United States, there are two kinds of pelicans: the brown and the white. The white pelican is all white except for the tips of its wings, which are black. In contrast, the brown pelican is solid brown, except for the adults, which have white faces.

Both white and brown pelicans live in colonies and eat lots of fish. However, they differ in the way they catch the fish. White pelicans form a line in the water. As they swim, they beat the water with their large wings. This frightens the fish and makes

them swim in front of the pelicans. The birds scoop up the fish with their large pouches. You might say that white pelicans use their pouches like fishing nets.

Brown pelicans, on the other hand, are like dive bombers. They fly above the water searching for fish. When they spot one, they dive for it and may even go beneath the surface of the water. Scooping up the fish, they return to the water's surface, empty the water from their pouches, and then swallow their prey.

How is the information in the article organized?

- A** It tells all about the brown pelican. Then it compares and contrasts the white to the brown.
- B** It tells all about the white pelican. Then it compares and contrasts the brown to the white.
- C** Its goes point by point as it compares and contrasts the white to the brown pelican.
- D** It first tells how the brown and white pelican are alike, and then tells how they are different.

Comparing
and
Contrasting

This passage mostly compares the two pelicans point by point. It compares and contrasts what the birds look like in paragraph 1. Then, in paragraph 2, it compares and contrasts how they catch fish. Choice C is correct.

2 Choose the phrases that *best* fill *both* blanks in the sentence.

The “Just the Facts” selection *mostly* _____, while “One Tall Building” *mostly* _____.

- A includes general information...gives feelings and history of the building
- B tells how the building was constructed...tells stories about the people who built it
- C gives opinions about the building...gives general information
- D is meant to be serious...is meant to be funny

3 Which of these facts can be found in *both* selections?

- A The building appeared in the 1933 King Kong movie.
- B There is an annual footrace up the stairs of the building.
- C The architect of the building was William Lamb.
- D The construction of the building began on March 17, 1930.

4 If you wanted to know when excavation began on the building, you should look in—

- A “Just the Facts”
- B “One Tall Building”
- C both selections
- D neither selection

5 Use information from *both* selections to tell the location and entrances of the Empire State Building.

6 Which of these facts can be found *only* in “One Tall Building”?

- A how many pounds of steel was used
- B where the steel used came from
- C how fast the building rose up
- D the firm that helped with the design

2 Describe *three* ways that the two stories are different.

The Arctic and Antarctica

by Mary Ridgely

Both the Arctic and Antarctica are cold, far-off regions. The Arctic, which includes the North Pole, is an ocean surrounded by continents and is at the top of the world. Antarctica, which includes the South Pole, is a continent surrounded by ocean at the bottom of the world. Antarctica is the coldest place in the world. A land of thick ice and deep snow, it has no trees or bushes. The largest land animal that lives on Antarctica is a tiny insect. However,

thousands of whales, seals, and penguins make their homes in the seas surrounding the continent. The Arctic is not as cold or windy as Antarctica. It has many plants that bloom in the short summer. Only about one-tenth of the Arctic is covered with snow year round. Reindeer, polar bears, caribou, and foxes make their homes in the Arctic. Many people also live on the continents around the Arctic.

- 1 This article *mainly* compares and contrasts the—
- A people living in the Arctic and Antarctica
 - B animals living in the Arctic and Antarctica
 - C land and animals in the Arctic and Antarctica
 - D ways people live in the Arctic and Antarctica
- 2 Which of the following shows a way that the Arctic and Antarctica are alike?
- A They both have some areas covered with snow year round.
 - B They both are home to reindeer, caribou, and foxes.
 - C They both are home to whales, seals, and penguins.
 - D They both have some plants blooming in the short summer.