



Compare and contrast

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read along with the student, helping as needed.

~~~~~  
When we **compare** two things, we tell how they are *alike*.

When we **contrast** two things, we tell how they are *different*.  
~~~~~

As you read this story, think about how the two characters are *alike*, and how they are *different*.

The Tiger and the Fox

A tiger was caught in a cage. He pushed and pulled and beat upon the bars. He roared with rage when the bars held firm. By chance, a fox came along. "Let me out of this cage, kind fox," cried the tiger.

"No, my friend," said the fox. "You would eat me if I did."

"Not at all!" swore the tiger. I would be grateful to you forever, and serve you as a slave." The tiger continued to beg, and cry, and plead, until the fox finally agreed to let him out.

The tiger leaped out and grabbed the fox. "What a fool you are!" cried the tiger. "I am going to eat you up right now!"

"What if you get trapped again?" asked the fox. "That is what you should be thinking about. How did it happen, anyway?" So tiger described exactly what had happened. "Hmm," said the fox. This is all very confusing. Would you mind telling me again? I think I have it all mixed up." So the tiger told him again all that had happened. "It's very odd," said the fox. Could you *show* me how it happened? Maybe then I will understand."

So they went over to the cage, and the tiger showed him the trap door. "Oh, my poor brain!" the fox said. "So you, sir, were outside the cage when the trap door came down?"

"No!" shouted the tiger. "You are such a fool! I was *inside* the cage, of course."

"Of course!" cried the fox, pretending to be afraid. "I was in the cage. No. Oh dear, where is my brain? Let me see. A cage was walking along. No, that isn't it either! Oh, never mind me. I will never understand."

"Yes you will," cried the tiger, in a rage. "Look. Here is the cage. I was in the cage. Do you understand?"

The fox trembled, and nodded. "But, please..."
"Please what!" shouted the tiger.
"Please...how did you get in?"
"How? Why, in the usual way, of course!"
"Oh dear, my head is spinning. Please don't be angry, but what is the usual way?"
At this, the tiger lost his patience completely and jumped into the cage.
"This way! Now do you understand how it was?"
"Perfectly," grinned the fox, as he quickly shut the door. "And if you don't mind my saying so, I think things will remain the way they were."

Some of these details are true of just one of the two characters. Some are true of both characters. Some are not true of either character. Read each detail, and select the best answer.

1. ... angry in the beginning of the story
 - A. The tiger only
 - B. The fox only
 - C. Both characters
 - D. Neither character
2. ... kind in the beginning of the story
 - A. The tiger only
 - B. The fox only
 - C. Both characters
 - D. Neither character
3. ... brags that he is very clever
 - A. The tiger only
 - B. The fox only
 - C. Both characters
 - D. Neither character
4. ... understands how the trap door works
 - A. The tiger only
 - B. The fox only
 - C. Both characters
 - D. Neither character
5. ... wants the fox to get trapped in the cage.
 - A. The tiger only
 - B. The fox only
 - C. Both characters
 - D. Neither character

~~~~~

7. How do the characters' *differences* affect what happens in the story?

---

## **Answer Key**

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. D
6. Accept any reasonable response, such as, the fox is much cleverer than the tiger, and this helps him to trick the tiger into going back inside the cage.