

# James Abela ELT

## Compare & Contrast Sample Essay - Television Vs Books

Essay	Sentence type	Structure
Books were the first medium to give people information on a printed page, then a Scottish man John Logie Beird transmitted the first pictures on 25 <sup>th</sup> October 1925 and television was born.	Background sentence(s)	Give a little background to the topic and then put in your thesis statement
For most people watching television is better than reading books.	Thesis statement	
Television is a very popular medium.	Topic sentence	Analyse topic 1 in depth. You can refer to topic 2 briefly if you wish.
Part of the reason for its popularity is the number of television channels, which people can easily choose via their remote control.	Supporting	
Another reason that people watch television is to relax.	Supporting	
In fact television is so popular that it has become a part of our everyday routine.	Supporting	
Books are a very valuable source of information.	Topic sentence	Analyse topic 2 in depth. You can refer to topic 1 briefly if you wish.
There are many more books available than television channels.	Supporting (Comparative)	
Secondly the reader can choose the book and the part of the book that they want to read.	Supporting	
And thirdly speed readers can read faster than they get the information from a television programme	Supporting (Comparative)	
Books and television can be found nearly everywhere on the planet.	Topic sentence	Bring the two topics together.
Books are cheap to produce and for popular subjects are cheap to buy.	Supporting (Comparative)	
Books are also highly portable and can be read nearly anywhere.	Supporting	
However televisions are installed in nearly every household and only need to be switched on to provide new entertainment and information.	Supporting (Comparative)	
Both books and television are great sources of information and entertainment, but television is very relaxing with sound and moving images and is therefore the better medium.	Conclusion	Finish off with a summary of your arguments and state your opinion clearly.

## Books Vs Television (Article and Subject/Verb Exercise)

Books (1) was/were<sup>the</sup> first medium to give people information on printed page, then Scottish man John Logie Beird transmitted first pictures on 25th October 1925 and television (2) was/were born. For most people watching television (3) is/are better than reading books.

Television (4) is/are very popular medium. Part of reason for its popularity (5) is/are number of television channels, which people can easily choose via their remote control. Another reason that people (6) watch/watches television (7) is/are to relax. In fact television (8) is/are so popular that it (9) has/have become part of our everyday routine.

Books (10) is/are very valuable source of information. There (11) is/are many more books available than television channels. Secondly reader can choose book and part of book that they want to read. And thirdly speed readers can read faster than they get information from television programme.

Books and television can be found nearly everywhere on planet. Books (12) is/are cheap to produce and for popular subjects (13) is/are cheap to buy. Books (14) is/are also highly portable and can be read nearly anywhere. However televisions (15) is/are installed in nearly every household and only (16) need/needs to be switched on to provide new entertainment and information.

Both books and television (17) is/are great sources of information and entertainment, but television (18) is/are very relaxing with sound and moving images and (19) is/are therefore better medium.

### Exercises

- A. The articles are missing from this Compare and contrast Essay.  
Please insert *a, an or the*.
- B. Look at the numbered verbs. Choose the best form.

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## Form of verbs

		To be	To have	To need (Regular verb)
Present Simple	I	am	have	need
	you/we/they	are		
	he/she/it	is	has	needs
Past Simple	you/we/they	were	had	needed
	I/he/she/it	was		

## Basic Article Rules

diagram	Type of noun	article used	Example
	Unselected singular countable noun	a/an	a pencil
	unselected uncountable noun	no article	water
	unselected plural	quantifier / no article	two pencils pencils
	selected noun	the	the pencil the pencils the water

A is used before consonant sounds and an is used before vowel sounds. Note that university begins with a vowel, but the first sound is (y) and so it's a university.

## **Teacher's Notes**

The article can be used simply as a compare and contrast essay or as a simple subject/Verb and article correction exercise.

## **Simple Article Explanation and Demonstration**

The article rules may need an explanation. Here is what I do in class to make it clear. (And you will see the reason for the particular clipart)

1. I get a number of marker pens out.
2. I ask the student to take a pen.
3. They can take any pen.
4. I then point at a pen and ask them to take the pen. (I make sure they take the right pen.) You may also use colours at this point to help. e.g. "Take the blue pen"
5. I have a plate and pour some water on a plate and ask them to count it... They obviously can't. I tell them that is why it is uncountable and they don't need to use an article.