

OPPOSITES

Vocabulary

similar – almost the same

opposite – as different as possible from something else

different – not like something or someone else, or not like before

this – used to refer to a person, thing, idea, etc that has just been mentioned or to something that has just happened

that – used to refer to a person, thing, idea, etc that has already been mentioned or is already known about

these – the plural of this

those – the plural of those

here – in this place

there – in or to a particular place that is not where you are

near – only a short distance from a person or thing

far – a long distance

big – of more than average size or amount

large – big in size, amount, or number

small – not large in size or amount

tiny – extremely small

little – small in size

tall – a person, building, tree, etc that is tall is a greater height than normal

short – happening or continuing for only a little time or for less time than usual

many/much – a large number of people or things

few – a small number of things or people

flat (BrE)/apartment (AmE) – a set of rooms on one floor of a large building, where someone lives

floor – the flat surface that you stand on inside a building

studio (apartment) – a small apartment with one main room

apartment complex – a large building containing many apartments

house – a building that someone lives in, especially one that has more than one level and is intended to be used by one family

estate agency – a company that sells houses or land for other people

living-room – the main room in a house where people relax, watch television

kitchen – the room where you prepare and cook food

bedroom – a room for sleeping in

bathroom – a room where there is a bath or shower, a basin, and sometimes a toilet

cheap – low in price

expensive – high in price

roommate – someone who you share a room with, especially at college

ad (short for advertisement) – a picture, set of words, or a short film, which is intended to persuade people to buy a product or use a service, or that gives information about a job that is available, an event that is going to happen, etc.

loft – a space above a business, factory, etc. that was once used for storing goods but has been changed into living space

vibe – a person's emotional state or the atmosphere of a place as communicated to and felt by others

old-fashioned – not considered to be modern or fashionable anymore

run-down – a building or area that is run-down is in very bad condition

lease – a legal agreement which allows you to use a building, car, etc. for a period of time, in return for rent

utility – a service that is used by the public, such as an electricity or gas supply or a train service

mortgage – a legal arrangement by which you borrow money from a bank or similar organization in order to buy a house, and pay back the money over a period of years

adult – a fully-grown person or one who is considered to be legally responsible for their actions

polar opposites – completely different personalities

shy – nervous and embarrassed about meeting and speaking to other people, especially people you do not know

homebody – a person who likes to stay at home, especially one who is perceived as unadventurous

fashion house – a company that produces new and expensive styles of clothes

slogan – a short sentence or phrase chosen as encapsulating the beliefs or ideals guiding an individual or company

garment – a piece of clothing

outfit – a set of clothes worn together, especially for a special occasion

attractive – someone who is attractive is good looking

stylish – attractive in a fashionable way

mini – a very short skirt or dress

maxi – a very long skirt or dress

hoodie – a hooded sweatshirt or jacket

pencil skirt – a very narrow straight skirt

vest – a close-fitting waist-length garment, typically having no sleeves or collar and buttoning down the front

trend – a general tendency in the way a situation is changing or developing

beautiful – very good or giving you great pleasure

comfortable – making you feel physically relaxed, without any pain or without being too hot, cold

quality – how good or bad something is

fabric – cloth used for making clothes

Verbs

- to look through something** – to read something quickly
- to look for someone/something** – to search for someone or something
- but to no avail** – used to say that something is ineffective or unsuccessful
- to move in** – to start living in a new home
- to move out** – to leave the house where you are living now in order to go and live somewhere else
- to rent** – to regularly pay money to live in a house or room that belongs to someone else or to use something that belongs to someone else
- to cost** – the amount of money that you have to pay in order to buy, do or produce something
- to hear** – to know that a sound is being made, using your ears
- to tell** – if someone tells you something, they communicate information, a story, their feelings, etc. to you
- to break up** – to end a relationship
- to be over someone/something** – to forget someone or something because you were caused pain
- to feel** – to experience a particular physical feeling or emotion
- to party** – to enjoy yourself at a party with others
- to propose** – to ask someone to marry you, especially in a formal way
- to get married** – to begin a legal relationship with someone as their husband or wife
- to message** – to send a message
- to accept** – to take something that someone offers you, or to agree to do something that someone asks you to do
- to follow** – to go, walk, drive, etc. behind or after someone else OR to do something in the way that someone has told or advised you to do it

Phrases

- Are you kidding me?** – Are you serious?/Are you joking with me?
- reasonable price** – price that is considered to be good and not too expensive
- to room together with someone/to share a room with someone** – to rent a room together and to live together in it
- I bet** – used to indicate that you are certain that something is true or will happen
- apartment hunting** – the process of looking for an apartment to rent or to buy
- to be thrilled about someone/something** – to have a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure
- for ages** – for a very long period of time
- It's been okayish.** (informal) – I haven't been doing great
- to climb the career ladder** – to get promoted, to make a successful career
- to settle down with someone** – to start living a quiet life in one place, especially when people get married or buy a house

to meet someone halfway – to compromise

to be head over heels (in love) with someone – to love someone very much

I hear you. – used to say that you understand someone's opinion

Grammar Corner

If we want to link two ideas that are different from each other, we can use linking words and phrases. For example, *but, although, though, despite, in spite of, however, nevertheless, on the one hand, on the other hand, etc.*

*e.g. We are great together, **but** we have a fight here and there.*

***Although** we are polar opposites, we get along.*

*Matt is a fan of football. **On the other hand**, Liz cannot stand anything sports-related.*

We can use **the** + comparative adjective/adverb + clause + **the** + comparative adjective/adverb + clause to express comparison and contrast.

*e.g. **The more fashionable** you look, **the cooler** you feel.*

***The older** you get, **the less** you care about clothes.*

***The more** you two hang out together, **the more** you'll like Jeff.*

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2)

Apartments

P1: Hey there, future roommate! What are you reading?

P2: Hi! I'm looking through ads of estate agencies. Do you remember that a new semester starts in a month and we haven't found a flat yet?

P1: Are you kidding me? Of course I remember. I've been looking for a new place for about a week, but to no avail.

P2: Yeah, it's really hard to find a good apartment at a reasonable price.

P1: Show me the pictures of the ones you like.

P2: This is the best one so far – a small studio apartment not far from our college with a bed and a sofa. Only \$700 per month.

P1: What? \$700 per month for a tiny apartment without a bedroom? And where are we supposed to sleep? In the kitchen?

P2: Have you ever heard about studio apartments? The whole point is that there's no defined bedroom or living-room, just one big space. Studio apartments are extremely popular now, they have this cool loft vibe.

P1: You mean, some time ago it used to be an attic or a factory, and now we'll actually pay \$700 to sleep on a sofa in this cramped space?

P2: I don't mind sleeping on a sofa if it's such a big deal for you. The bigger the flat is, the higher the price goes. So the size of this apartment is an advantage for us.

P1: You mean the lack of it, right? Why not live in a regular house or an apartment complex with someone else? We could rent a 3-bedroom house and find more roommates online. Everyone will have a bed to sleep in, we won't have to be around each other all the time. Personal space is very important for me.

P2: A 3-bedroom house? How old are you? Forty? It's too boring and too old-fashioned. I bet that all these buildings are already run-down and not well-maintained.

P1: I think it is doable to find a fully-furnished apartment within our price range. By the way, what about parking at your fancy studio?

P2: An extra \$50 per month.

P1: Well, my variant has no extras like that. All utilities included, we'll just have to pay for our internet separately.

P2: How much is it?

P1: \$1000, but if we find a roommate, or maybe even two, we'll actually save up a ton.

P2: I'm not thrilled about the idea of living in a house, but the price has me convinced.

Polar Opposites

P1: Hi, mom! How's it going?

P2: Hi there, my darling! I'm so glad to hear your voice.

P1: Yeah, we haven't talked for ages. It's been okayish.

P2: What's wrong, sweetie?

P1: Well, Sarah and I broke up a couple of weeks ago.

P2: What? Why? How did it happen?

P1: Don't worry, please. Everything is fine. There is no real reason, I just realized I don't like her anymore, so I decided to end it.

P2: Billy, you told us that you were going to propose to her at her birthday party.

P1: Well, yeah, I wanted to, but then I thought that getting married is a very serious step and I'm not ready to be *that* serious. Don't they say that you're supposed to have the best time of your life in college? And Sarah... She wants a family, kids, mortgage, and other adult stuff like this. We're polar opposites.

P2: Are you sure about your decision, sweetie?

P1: I'm excited to climb the career ladder and meet all these interesting people at parties, I'm not ready to settle down.

P2: Billy, son, but how is going to parties connected with climbing the career ladder? Did you two have a fight?

P1: Sort of? Maybe we've just realized that we're too different. She is an organized one, and I don't mind my place being on the messier side. She is shy and quiet, and I'm outgoing and loud. She is an early bird, and I'm a night owl. I don't think it's fair to her, so I broke up with her. It's for our own good, really. I'm getting over it.

P2: Have you tried looking past it? As they say, there's strength in the differences between us. How about meeting each other halfway?

P1: I don't think it works like that. Look at you and dad – you're both homebodies, you like board games and jazz music, you don't need a crowd to feel happy. Your definition of happiness is the same as dad's. On the other hand, I feel the happiest when I'm around people, I don't want to lead a quiet life like Sarah. Let's be honest here, if I'm not head over heels in love with her after 3 years, when is it gonna happen?

P2: At least you were honest with her, for that, I'm proud of you.

P1: Thanks, I guess?

Fashion

P1: Have you seen a new fall collection of Little Heart fashion house?

P2: No, I don't even know what that is.

P1: Are you serious? This is one of the most famous fashion houses in the world.

P2: You know that I'm not very interested in this type of thing. I never follow any fashion trends, just my heart.

P1: This is their slogan! "Follow your heart, follow Little Heart".

P2: Oh, okay.

P1: Their mission is to show that fashion is for everyone. Their garments can fit all shapes and sizes. Be it a miniskirt or a maxi dress, every woman can wear it.

P2: That's a great policy, I guess. Personally, I think that to be fashionable you should simply be confident, happy, and wear clean and tidy clothes. In this case, the price doesn't really matter.

P1: I cannot agree with you. It is important to have this internal sense of what is stylish. You can wear all clean and tidy clothes but if they are of completely different styles, you'll probably end up looking ridiculous and silly. A hoodie won't work with a pencil skirt. Or if you wear a vest over your sweater, you'll end up looking older than you really are.

P2: For sure, but to look stylish you don't necessarily need to buy expensive designer clothes. You can order 5 skirts online for the price of one designed by "Little Heart". It just doesn't mean that the higher the price is, the more quality you get.

P1: Isn't it better to buy one skirt of amazing quality rather than 5 cheap ones? These will get worn out in a couple of months. The quality of the clothes you wear is important too, some synthetic fabrics can be harmful to your skin.

P2: Well, I've been wearing cheap clothes pretty much my whole life, and as you can see, I am healthy and all. I don't care about fashion trends and what is considered stylish this fall. I wear what I personally find beautiful and comfortable and what I can afford, that's it.

P1: I hear you.