Learn how to write about and compare two pie charts.

Before reading
Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and tips and do the exercises.

Preparation task
Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. gaming</td>
<td>a. in the same way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. a purpose</td>
<td>b. to show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. to illustrate</td>
<td>c. playing video games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. a figure</td>
<td>d. however</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. similarly</td>
<td>e. a number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. in contrast</td>
<td>f. a use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall, the two pie charts show that smartphones and tablets are used for the same purposes but to very different extents.

The first pie chart shows how people spend their time on smartphones while the second pie chart illustrates how time is spent on tablets. For both types of device, the top use is for games, but the figures differ greatly. 57% of the time spent on a tablet is given to playing games, while only 35% of the time spent on a smartphone is used for this. In contrast, smartphone users spend 29% of their time on their gadget accessing social networking sites compared with just 15% of tablet time spent on the same activity.

The third most popular use of the tablet is for consuming entertainment, with users spending 13% of their tablet time watching videos and listening to music. Smartphone users, however, dedicate only 8% of their smartphone time to such entertainment, preferring instead to spend 20% of their time on their phone accessing utilities. These can include maps, weather information and calculators.

There is a clear difference in the way people are using their smartphones and tablets. In general, while tablets are being used more for gaming and other forms of entertainment, smartphones seem to be the preferred option for tasks as well as communication with the world around us.

Please note: This page was designed for writing practice only. Information in the charts may not be accurate.
Tips

1. Before writing about the detailed figures, give an overview of what the graphs or charts represent.
2. Say precisely what the data refers to. There is a difference between, for example, a user spending 57% of their time on games and a user spending 57% of their tablet time on games. (You can write % or per cent, but be consistent.)
3. You don’t need to describe all the information in the diagrams. Select the most important things.
4. Don’t repeat vocabulary. Use different words and phrases with the same or similar meanings, e.g. playing games = gaming.
5. Use similarly, in the same way or also to show similarities.
6. Use however, in contrast, but, while or instead to show differences.

Tasks

Task 1
Are the sentences true or false?

1. When describing a chart or graph, start by immediately giving figures and numbers. True False
2. When you report data from the chart, there’s no need to add too much detail about what it refers to. True False
3. You should describe every single figure in the charts. True False
4. It’s a good idea to repeat useful phrases (e.g. The first chart shows ...) many times. True False
5. We should try to compare and contrast the charts, rather than talk about each one separately. True False
6. We can use however, in contrast, but, while or instead to show similarities. True False
Task 2
Put these words in the correct group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>in the same way</th>
<th>in contrast</th>
<th>instead</th>
<th>but</th>
<th>also</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>however</td>
<td>as well</td>
<td>in addition</td>
<td>similarly</td>
<td>while</td>
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Task 3
Complete the sentences with words from the box.

Instead  Similarly  contrast
However   while    as well

1. Both tablet usage and smartphone usage are growing. ................................., they are used in very different ways.
2. Fewer people watch television in the evenings now. .........................., for entertainment, they use their tablets.
3. Over a quarter of time spent on smartphones is on social networking sites. In .............................., only 15% of tablet time is used for social media.
4. Younger people like shopping on their tablets, but they often use their smartphones to buy things ......................... .
5. Tablet users spend the majority of their time on the device playing games. .........................., gaming is the top use for smartphones.
6. People use smartphones more for communication, ...................... tablets are preferred for entertainment.

Discussion
Do you own a smartphone and a tablet? What differences do you notice between the way you use them? Are there any similarities?
Answers

Preparation task
1. c
2. f
3. b
4. e
5. a
6. d

Task 1
1. False
2. False
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. False

Task 2

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Task 3
1. However
2. Instead
3. contrast
4. as well
5. Similarly
6. while