

Looking at both sides phrases the same or different

Decide how similar or different each of the groups of phrases below, then talk about what the (main/ most important) differences might be. Some are (basically) the same. If there are more than two, they are all the same or all different (= different, different and different again).

Articles/ Determiners

1. An advantage/ The advantage
2. One of the advantages/ An advantage
3. A great advantage/ The main advantage

Collocations with advantage

4. The greatest advantage/ The main advantage/ The most significant advantage
5. The greatest advantage/ The overwhelming advantage
6. By far the most important advantage/ The overwhelming advantage
7. A great advantage/ A major advantage/ A big advantage
8. A comparatively minor disadvantage/ A completely insignificant disadvantage
9. A more important advantage/ A very important advantage
10. A possible advantage/ A potential advantage
11. Another advantage/ A further advantage/ An additional advantage/ One more advantage

Other phrases for looking at both sides

12. Pros and cons/ Advantages and disadvantages
13. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages/ There are more pros than cons
14. A pro/ An advantage
15. A con/ A disadvantage
16. Arguments for/ Supporting arguments/ Arguments in support
17. Good and bad points/ Benefits and drawbacks
18. Positive aspect/ Positive point
19. Negative effect/ Negative consequence

Contrasting phrases/ Turning to the other side of the argument

20. On the contrary/ On the other hand
21. In contrast/ On the other hand
22. On the other hand/ On the other side of the coin/ Turning to the other side of the argument/ We can balance against this...
23. Nevertheless/ On the other hand,...
24. Nonetheless/ Nevertheless/ Even though (all) that is true/ Despite all of this
25. However,.../..., but...
26. Despite.../ In spite of...

Suggested answers

Determiners

1. An advantage/ The advantage – Very different
2. One of the advantages/ An advantage – The same
3. A great advantage/ The main advantage – Different

Collocations with advantage

4. The greatest advantage/ The main advantage/ The most significant advantage – The same
5. The greatest advantage/ The overwhelming advantage – Significantly different
6. By far the most important advantage/ The overwhelming advantage – The same
7. A great advantage/ A major advantage/ A big advantage – The same
8. A comparatively minor disadvantage/ A completely insignificant disadvantage – Different
9. A more important advantage/ A very important advantage – Different
10. A possible advantage/ A potential advantage – Slightly different
11. Another advantage/ A further advantage/ An additional advantage/ One more advantage – The same

Other phrases

12. Pros and cons/ Advantages and disadvantages – The same
13. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages/ There are more pros than cons – Basically the same
14. A pro/ An advantage – Different (“Pros and cons” is a fixed expression – the general meaning of “a pro” is “a professional”)
15. A con/ A disadvantage – Different (“Pros and cons” is a fixed expression – the general meaning of “a con” is “fraud/ a scam/ a rip off” or slang for “a prisoner”)
16. Arguments for/ Supporting arguments/ Arguments in support – The same
17. Good and bad points/ Benefits and drawbacks – The same
18. Positive aspect/ Positive point – The same
19. Negative effect/ Negative consequence – The same

Contrasting phrases

20. In contrast/ On the contrary – Different (The latter means the thing just said isn't true)
21. In contrast/ On the other hand – Different (The latter is only used to weigh things up)
22. On the other hand/ On the other side of the coin/ Turning to the other side of the argument/ We can balance against this... – The same
23. Nevertheless/ ,whereas... - Different (The former shows which side you agree with)
24. Nonetheless/ Nevertheless/ Even though (all) that is true/ Despite all of this – The same
25. However,.../..., but... – The same
26. Despite.../ In spite of... – The same