**How to Write an Analogy Paragraph (adapted from http://www.ehow.com/how\_8656753\_write-analogy-paragraph.html)**

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*Emotional humans tend to invoke analogies on a regular basis, often using them to colorfully describe unpleasant experiences, such as: "Waiting in that line at the coffee shop was like walking through the gates of hell" even when the writer could not possibly elaborate (at least credibly) on what the gates of hell feel like. If well constructed, however, analogy paragraphs can add dimension and meaning to writing as they do, at their essence, compare two different things with the purpose of underscoring a similarity.*

Instructions

1. Ensure that the two things you are comparing share enough similarities to justify the comparison. A wobbly analogy, like a three-legged chair, will quickly fall apart.
2. Write a draft of a topic sentence that sets the stage for your analogy paragraph. Unlike most topic sentences -- which are direct and specific -- this one may strike a chord of understanding as well as puzzlement. That's to be expected, as your "job" as a writer is to expound on and explain what the analogy means to you in subsequent sentences.
3. Fine-tune the topic sentence and ensure that it suggests enough ideas for you to amplify: "I thought I was walking into a quiet [medical clinic](http://www.ehow.com/how_8656753_write-analogy-paragraph.html), but really it was like going back into time to the noisy workout gyms from the 1980s." This analogy suggests a crowded, frenetic environment that causes the writer unease if not disappointment.
4. Brainstorm ideas for the similarities between the "clinic" and a gym where, for example, people exercise and work out on [fitness](http://www.ehow.com/how_8656753_write-analogy-paragraph.html) machines. Write down these ideas and choose the best three to demonstrate your meaning and to create an emotional appeal of understanding.
5. Write at least three sentences to make the analogy complete, employing descriptive and vivid language that paints a visual picture: "Several men were sweating on treadmills while a group of woman were working out with a personal trainer who barked commands to "up the tempo" and "feel the muscle burn." With multiple TVs blaring in the background, I didn't even hear the [doctor](http://www.ehow.com/how_8656753_write-analogy-paragraph.html) call out my name. For a long moment, I had forgotten I was in a medical clinic at all; I thought it was 1988 all over again."
6. Review your choice of words for denotation and connotation. The allure of analogies is such that they can lend themselves to exaggeration. Fight this tendency mightily as it will only jeopardize your credibility.

Here are some examples:

"I am to dancing what Roseanne is to singing and Donald Duck to motivational speeches. I am as graceful as a refrigerator falling down a flight of stairs."

"If you want my final opinion on the mystery of life and all that, I can give it to you in a nutshell. The universe is like a safe to which there is a combination. But the combination is locked up in the safe."

"Harrison Ford is like one of those sports cars that advertise acceleration from 0 to 60 m.p.h. in three or four seconds. He can go from slightly broody inaction to ferocious reaction in approximately the same time span. And he handles the tight turns and corkscrew twists of a suspense story without losing his balance or leaving skid marks on the film. But maybe the best and most interesting thing about him is that he doesn't look particularly sleek, quick, or powerful; until something or somebody causes him to gun his engine, he projects the seemly aura of the family sedan."

"If I had not agreed to review this book, I would have stopped after five pages. After 600, I felt as if I were inside a bass drum banged on by a clown."
(Richard Brookhiser, "Land Grab." *The New York Times*, Aug. 12, 2007)

"MTV is to music as KFC is to chicken."

Now, it’s your turn. Develop some original scenarios that require analogies, THEN write the analogy. The scenario need not be sports related, but can be if you’d like. Use your creativity. Any topic is fair game: Jeremy Lin, Peyton Manning press conference, Tom Brady’s hair, Bobby Valentine’s coaching philosophies, Obama’s healthcare, EGHS advisory, etc.

You are to develop:

FIVE analogies of the “shorter” variety

THREE analogies of the longer type (like Harrison Ford one above)