

Teaching Guides

On the contrary or On the other hand

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Target Students: Senior Secondary
Corpus Used: Corpus Concordance English
Class Duration: 120 minutes
Module: Learning English through Social Issues
Topic: Know about Asperger syndrome
Task: Writing a description about their Asperger classmate

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, the students will be able to

- (1) Distinguish the meaning difference of “on the contrary” and “on the other hand”;
- (2) Use “on the contrary” and “on the other hand” in their writing; and
- (3) Use corpus as a tool for inductive and self-directed learning.

Design Rationale

Secondary students need to write more complex text using a variety of connectives. However, students either easily mix up the two phrases “on the contrary” and “on the other hand” or overuse simple connectives like “but” (Crewe, 1990; Field & Yip, 1992; Granger, 1998). Textbooks also lack explanations about the differences between connectives of similar meaning as below (Brooker, 2010).

We use ...	to ...	Examples
However Nevertheless Nonetheless On the other hand	show a contrast	The meal was tasty. However , it made me ill. Joe hardly studied. Nevertheless , he passed. Sandy eats a lot. Nonetheless , she stays slim. He might go. On the other hand , he might not.
As a result Consequently Therefore	show a result	Sam felt tired. As a result , he took a nap. I got up late. Consequently , I missed the bus. Jo apologised. Therefore , she wasn't punished.
Also Besides		Jenny behaves badly. She's also very rude. I can't afford this dress. Besides , I don't like it.

Part A. Watch and Read about Asperger syndrome

We are going to read a speech from a mother of an Asperger patient.

- (i) Watch the documentary below to help understand more about Asperger syndrome. (Onset to 2:40)

"Through Our Eyes: Living with Asperger's"



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TSlti5bioQ>

- (ii) Now read the following sharing from the mother of the Asperger patient.
(iii) Fill in the blanks with “on the contrary” or “on the other hand”. The first two blanks have been given to you as example.

Good morning mothers,

Ben, my son, is as lovely and energetic as every child in the park. **On the other hand**, he is actually an Asperger patient. People always think that taking care of an Asperger child is challenging. I, **on the contrary**, think it is no big deal though he really needs more attention.

When I complained to a friend that whenever Ben was asked what he wanted for Christmas, he replied 'pets'. My friend said, 'Count yourself lucky'. In this house the campaign for a Glitter Barbie was launched in August. Sometimes, Ben wants to talk to blackberries or go to bed with a pile of socks. I don't really mind even if normal children, _____, would not like this.

The question of education for Asperger children is a difficult one. In a mainstream school such children are easy targets for bullying and teasing. They have little ability to defend themselves other than by uncontrolled outbursts of physical aggression; and they may not be able to explain what is happening to a sympathetic adult. _____, their IQ is usually average or above. Special schools might be successful in teaching 'life skills' but would perhaps be unable to cater for their intellectual needs. _____, mainstream schools would be able to achieve the later but not the former.

After some consideration we decided that Ben should join the village primary school. His first term has been - from his point of view - a great success. He loves the company of the other children, even if he can't follow their games, and they are wonderfully tolerant of him. Having a diagnostic label has helped. _____, without it he would have been seen as a naughty or disturbed child.

After all, do not be afraid of sending your child to mainstream schools. Just try and see how they adapt.

Q1. Can the two bold phrases be exchanged? Why?

Part B. Definition of “on the contrary” and “on the other hand”

(i) Read the corpus lines below. Colour the clause before and after “on the contrary” with different colours. The first one has been done for you as an example.

a) We know that health is never harmed by summer cooling.

ON THE CONTRARY, there are fewer colds and smaller doctor bills. (Brown, 002)

b) In the struggle between personal and supra-personal responsibility, I may never imagine that it is possible to make a compromise between the two. ON THE CONTRARY, it is my duty to make my own decision as between the two. (Brown, 005)

c) He felt himself being at a crucial point of his life. And that was why, on the day of the performance, when a carriage from the royal stables called to take him to the palace, he did not bother to shave. ON THE CONTRARY, he was pleased that his face showed a neglect of several days. (Brown, 012)

d) A few days ago, she would have thought such an expedition as this utterly ridiculous today, ON THE CONTRARY, it seemed utterly reasonable. (Brown, 013)

e) The performances of the Comedie Francaise are the most important recent events in the New York theater which serves to contradict a popular notion that the Comedie only repeats the techniques of acting prevailed in the 17th century. ON THE CONTRARY, the old plays are continually being reinterpreted, and each new production of a classic has only a brief history at the Comedie. (Brown, 017)

(ii) Based on the lines above, circle the answer:

“On the contrary” is used to express **opposite meaning** / differences from the first thing mentioned.

***If you are not sure...

Go back to the corpus lines above and try to circle the words or phrases which explains the statement. 😊

(iii) Read the corpus lines below. Colour the clause before and after “on the other hand” with different colours. The first one has been done for you as an example.

a) Debate is not likely to resolve the tensions and make the lot of the stepchild a happier one. Research, ON THE OTHER HAND , has shown many stepmothers to be eminently successful, some far better than the real mothers.

(Brown_BNC Writ,085)

b) He said that he had always classified women in terms of Jos, Megs, Amys, Beths and Marmees. He had found it a foolproof system, but ON THE OTHER HAND often turned around to find himself living on his own. (2k graded,003)

c) The more a community does to conserve its unique resources, whether natural or man-made, the more tourists it will attract. ON THE OTHER HAND , the more a community comes to resemble 'Anyplace, U.S.A.,' the less reason there will be to visit. (2k graded,007)

d) Eliza was very tall and thin, with a rather sour face, dressed in very plain clothes, and with a cross hanging round her neck. Georgiana, ON THE OTHER HAND was still pretty but very fat, and wore extremely fashionable clothes. (2k graded,015)

e) The boy was eager to make something of his life, and he looked for ways to work within the new system. Yury, ON THE

OTHER HAND , wanted to close himself off from the world and forget about people and politics. (2k graded,024)

(iv) Based on the lines above, circle the answer:

“On the other hand” is use to express opposite meaning/ differences from the first thing mentioned.

***If you are not sure...

Go back to the corpus lines above and try to circle the words or phrases which explains the statement 😊

Part C. Synonym “but” VS “on the contrary” and “on the other hand”

Read the definition of ‘But’ below:

“But” is used to connect two contrasting ideas.

But is a broaden term which covers meaning of both expressions, ‘on the contrary’ and ‘on the other hand’. However, the two terms cannot replace each other.

Now, to better understand the differences between ‘on the contrary’ and ‘on the other hand’, it’s your time to try out corpus! Here are the steps:

1. Go to <https://lexutor.ca/conc/eng/>
2. Enter ‘but’ in the keyword blank.
3. Choose ‘2k graded’ in the box next to ‘In corpus’.
4. Click the yellow ‘Get Concordance’ button.
5. Click into concordance 001, 002, 018, 024, 054 and 056.
6. Work out if you should replace the ‘but’ in the sentence with ‘on the other hand’ or ‘on the contrary’.
7. Refer to the examples in Part A & B if you are not sure of the meanings of the two phrases.

Your Answer: 001 on the other hand
 002 on the other hand
 018 on the contrary

- 024 on the contrary
- 054 on the other hand
- 056 on the contrary

Part D. Communicative task -Matching

Your Asperger syndrome classmate ripped her worksheet into pieces accidentally. You and your friend help him/ her fix the pieces.
 Here are some strips of chunked clauses. Everyone in the class holds a piece of it. Find the other half of the sentence by reading it to other classmates.

(Teachers should print and cut the strips in advance.)

Philip had gained one day on his flight journey, and this is because he had travelled eastward.	On the contrary,	he would have lost a day had he gone in the opposite direction, that is, westward.
The law to ban smoking in public places created a lot of controversy. Non-smokers are very happy that they do not have to worry about the effects of second-hand smoke on their health any more.	On the other hand,	business owners think that customers who smoke will stop coming to their bars and restaurants.
Since I started working, I felt that my English was not perfect. I can understand, I can read and talk, but I am not what we can call a fluently bilingual person.	On the other hand,	my husband is an italian immigrant and very often he feels more at ease to talk English.
Cyberspace is an exciting environment to meet new people. They can meet different people, go to different places and experience new things.	On the other hand,	cyberspace has disadvantages too. When they are communicating online, teens dont see each other, so they cant read each others' body language. They can misunderstand messages.
His lying didn't make him look	On the contrary,	this is what put him into

much better.		deeper trouble.
You could go to the party on Saturday night.	On the contrary,	you could stay home and relax.
These facts and figures that I have given will give no great aid and comfort to the enemy.	On the contrary,	I can imagine that they will give him considerable discomfort.

Part E. Writing about your classmate with Asperger syndrome

(i) Continue watching the documentary. Imagine Katie or Matt is your classmate. Write a 200-word text to describe her/ him using the phrases “on the contrary” and “on the other hand”.

"Through Our Eyes: Living with Asperger's"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TSLti5bioQ>

(Case of Katie: 3:04-5:21; Case of Matt: 5:25-10:52)

<p>My Classmate _____</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>We may have differences, but we can still be friends!</p>

References

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