

# CE-7: Differentiating Between Similar Items

[Contents \[hide\]](#)[Page](#) [Discussion](#)[Read](#)**Beginning**[Definition](#)[Example 1](#)**Definition**

This is to differentiate between two things that mistakenly could be considered to be same. It emphasizes the contrast in nature, value, or context between similar acts or entities, especially when they are performed or possessed by different agents. The rhetorical effect is to sharpen meaning, correct assumptions, or rhetorically elevate one party over another by highlighting qualitative differences within an apparently shared activity.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>



الفرق

**CE-7: Differentiating Between Similar Items****Category** Linguistic Embellishments ('ilm al-badi')**Subcategory** Grouping & Distinguishing[Balaghahscore.com](#) Entry**Code** CB-4 [BalaghahBase.org](#) Entry**Code** Q87 [OpenAlex.org](#) **ID** W4415372669 [Cite this page](#)

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[Download PDF](#) **Example 1**

سليم وكريم كلاهما من الطلاب الجيدين، غير أن سليمًا يتتفوق بطبعه، وكريمًا لا يرقى إلا بجهده.

Saleem and Karim are both good students, but Saleem is naturally superior, while Karim only advances through his own effort.

**Example 2**

The gift of the clouds at some time in the rainy season is not like the gift of the prince on a day of generosity;

for the gift of the prince is a camel-load of dinars and the gift of the clouds a drop of water.

- Rashīd al-Dīn al-Wātāwāt

**Explanation**

Both the clouds and the prince are giving something. However, the prince is rhetorically differentiated as being more generous than the clouds.

**Example 3**

وَمَا يَسْنُوِي الْبَحْرَانِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ سَائِعٌ شَرَابٌ وَهَذَا مَلْحٌ أَجَاجٌ.

The two seas are not equal: one is fresh and sweet, the other is salty and bitter.

Qur'an 35:12

**Explanation**

The seas seem similar ("both are seas"), but are sharply differentiated in taste and benefit.

**References**

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