**Video 4.2 Contrasting and comparing**

Hi. In the previous video you learnt about the importance of supporting your opinion with reasons and personal examples, so that the interviewer will trust what you're saying.

In this video you will see what else you can do to answer the interviewer's questions effectively. In particular, we'll look at the questions when you need to describe the advantages and disadvantages of a tool or solution. We will also discuss the situations when it's a good idea to offer multiple solutions rather than stick to a single way of implementing something.

Once I was talking to a colleague who had just finished interviewing a candidate for his project, and he told me a very interesting thing. The candidate got a question about choosing the best tool for developing a web application. He thought for a moment and then named a tool with a comment why he thought it was the best one. The candidate suggested a good tool, but the thing that really surprised my friend was that the candidate didn't think of any alternatives!

If you get a question where you need to offer a solution or deal with some imaginary situation, it's important to give more than one possible option. Also, it will be great if you talk about the pluses and minuses of each solution. This way you will demonstrate to the interviewer your ability to reason and think critically.

How do we put all that together? The candidate from my colleague's story could say:

*I would probably choose between tool1 and tool2. **Both** tool1 **and** tool2 have speedy user interface and great efficiency.*
***Compared with** tool1, tool2 is a bit less complicated, which is great if you have a lot of junior developers on the project. **However**, tool1 is updated on a regular basis, **whereas** support for tool2 stopped some time ago.*
***On the whole**, I would recommend using tool1, but tool2 is just as reliable and can be a second option to consider for a project.*

In this answer the candidate compares two options and mentions things that they have in common. Also, he stresses the differences between them that can be important in making the final decision. It is easy to follow his answer, as each point is introduced by special words like *compared with* or *however*. These words signal that he is going to describe similar features, or, on the opposite, contrast two things.
I hope you enjoyed this video. Now move on to the tasks in this lesson.