

A Tale of Two Cities

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way- in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.”

Complete the chart of parallel constructions (which illustrate the literary concept of antithesis) from this famous first sentence:

BEST	WORST

Now create a chart of your own to illustrate modern antitheses. This could be global, national, school, or personal.

BEST	WORST

Assignment: On a separate page, write a (long) sentence in the style of Dickens about present-day Best and Worst. Hint: If Dickens were writing today, he would use semicolons (not commas) to separate independent clauses, so that is what you should do in your sentence.