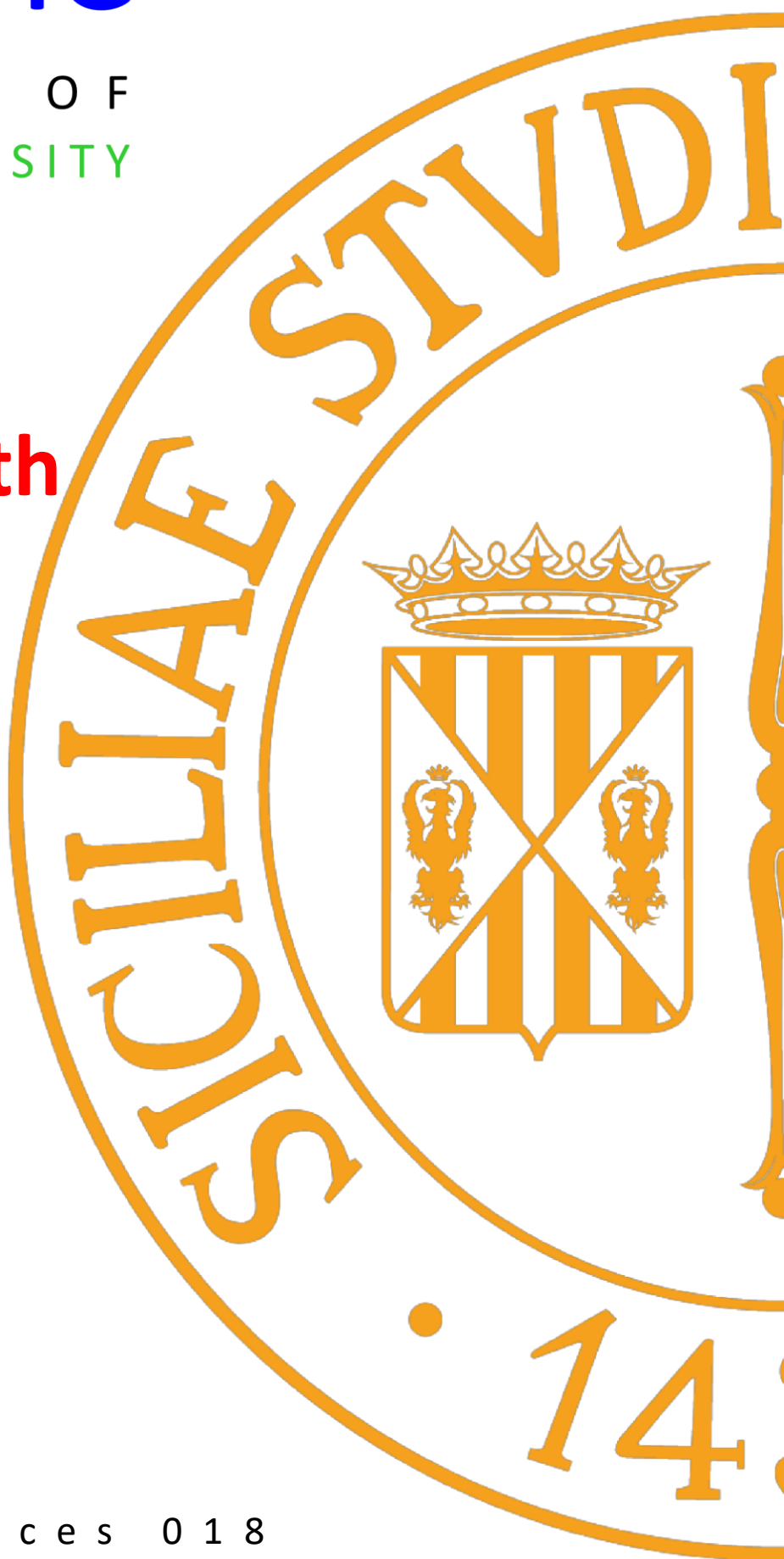


THE
SCIENTIFIC
BUREAU OF
CATANIA UNIVERSITY

Compared with

Compared to



Compared to - Compared with

The difference between these two should be easy to understand; they have been used for at least 500 years and even Shakespeare used them correctly!

However, the USA has influenced English over the last 5–6 decades, we also know that the USA have never established what language they speak, at least at the Federal level, even if 3 or 4 states have established their official language. Therefore, the USA has taken many liberties with the English language, which others think are now correct, even if they are not! Don't get me started on the transitive verb To Enjoy!

Well, the difference between these two prepositions with the verb **To Compare** are:

To compare with: 2 or more nouns that have the same or very similar attributes, properties or actions, and we want to identify which are the same, similar or different; this is the main form used.

*Example: Let's **compare** this car **with** that car. (here we look all the similarities and differences of the two cars, such as cost, size, performance, capacity.*

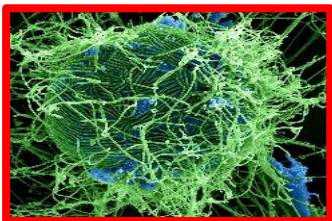
To compare to: normally used with only 2 nouns, normally dissimilar or completely different, sometimes of completely different constitution, and we want to say that one is "like" the other.

*Example: Shakespeare wrote that his love (maybe girlfriend) was **compared to** a summer day. (the girl and the day are completely different and cannot be compared, but the girl is “like” a summer day: warm, beautiful, sweet smelling).*

*He **compared** a bike’s front wheel **to** the casters on a shopping trolley. (there is no comparison between size, colour, material, but just that they work in the same way).*



*The thread viruses have been **compared to** strands of tangled rope, ... (viruses and rope are completely different and cannot be compared, but they are similar in shape and as we all know what rope is like it helps to make us understand their shape, what they do).*



Other examples

Those numbers are “very low” **compared with** other developed countries...

Sanders et al. **compared** rabbits **with** monkeys immunized with Env trimers...

...when **compared with** the coastal records.

Czeisler and his colleagues recently **compared** the sleep patterns of those who read a book on an iPad before bed **with** those who read print.

We monitored their sleep-wake cycles over six weeks and **compared** them **with** healthy people of the same age and gender who were also unemployed.

...the first quarter **compared with** the same period last year.

This prime minister has been **compared to** Churchill.

The praise I received can be **compared to** a Gold medal.

My holiday was **compared to** being in heaven.

Fire fighters have been **compared to** super heroes.

What have we learnt?

compared with=we make an objective comparison between aspects, qualities, parameters.

compared to= we make a subjective comparison, we consider them “similar”.