

# DIFFERENCES

## Quantitative Differences

Quantitative differences are differences of *DEGREE*. X differs from Y because it has more or less of something. Examples:

1. Student John earns an overall 88% while student Mary earns an overall 89%. Because both will get the same grade, the difference is one of degree only.
2. At the end of inning eight, the New York Yankees have scored five runs, and the Philadelphia Phillies have scored four. Neither is yet the winner or loser, so their difference is one of degree only.

## Qualitative Differences

Qualitative differences are differences in *KIND*. X differs from Y because it's in a different category. Examples:

1. Student John earns an overall 89% while student Mary earns an overall 90%. Because Mary now earns an A while John still earns a B, their grades are different in kind.
2. At game's end, the Yankees have scored five runs, and the Phillies have scored four. Because the teams are now in different categories—winner and loser—their difference is now one of kind.

## Significance

Since clear thinking and writing often require understanding of differences, students can benefit from correct usage these two concepts.

*Quantitative differences and qualitative differences are qualitatively different.*