

Difference between Competence and Performance

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What is the difference between competence and performance?

Competence and performance are two important ideas in language. Competence means knowing a language. Performance means using a language. These two are different but connected. Here are some most traceable differences between these two.

Difference Between Competence and Performance

Point	Competence	Performance
Meaning	Competence means knowing the rules of a language.	Performance means using the language in speaking or writing.
Example	A student knows that "He goes to school" is correct.	A student accidentally says "He go to school" while speaking.
Mistakes	No mistakes because it is only knowledge.	Mistakes can happen due to tiredness or nervousness.
Use in Class	Teachers check competence by testing grammar and vocabulary.	Teachers check performance by listening to students speak or write.
Importance	Helps in understanding a language.	Helps in using a language in real life.

In conclusion, both competence and performance are important. Competence helps us learn rules. Performance helps us use the language. A good student needs both to succeed in exams and real life.