

A Word

For Comparison

PEOPLE write and people speak, but few
Understand comparing with or to.

Compare to just means liken to, but who
Keeps preposition niceties in view?
Shakespeare knew *comparing to*; could say,
'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?'

Compare with means contrasting with, and so:
Compare her slimness *with* the bulk of Joe.
Syntax used to mean a lot – but no,
These days, grammar gets the old heave-ho!
