--follow-links

* Follow symbolic links (soft links and external links) and compare the links' target objects.
* If symbolic link(s) with the same name exist in the files being compared, then determine whether the target of each link is an existing object (dataset, group, or named datatype) or the link is a dangling link (a soft or external link pointing to a target object that does not yet exist).
  + If both symbolic links are dangling links, they are treated as being the same; by default, h5diff returns an exit code of 0. If, however, --no-dangling-links is used with --follow-links, this situation is treated as an error and h5diff returns an exit code of 2.
  + If only one of the two links is a dangling link, they are treated as being different and h5diff returns an exit code of 1. If, however, --no-dangling-links is used with --follow-links, this situation is treated as an error and h5diff returns an exit code of 2.
  + If both symbolic links point to existing objects, h5diff compares the two objects.
* If any symbolic link specified in the call to h5diff does not exist, h5diff treats it as an error and returns an exit code of 2.

--no-dangling-links

* Must be used with --follow-links option; otherwise, h5diff shows error message and returns an exit code of 2.
* Check for any symbolic links (soft links or external links) that do not resolve to an existing object (dataset, group, or named datatype). If any dangling link is found, this situation is treated as an error and h5diff returns an exit code of 2.