The Difference Between ACLS or ALS & BLS is that in ACLS, besides manual or instrumental CPR (a CPR done by a machine) to compress the heart and ventilate the lungs:

1. they use mostly machines such as:
   - a defibrillator, an instrument to defibrillate the heart that might have been stopped in fibrillation;
   - and a mechanical ventilator, to ventilate mechanically and systematically the lungs after tracheal intubation
2. they use medications such as antiarrythmics (Amiodarone 300mg IV or IOx1 that may be repeated at 150mg once or Magnesium [if Torsades de Pointes] 1-2gm IV or IO over 20mn) & anticholinergics (antispasmodics) to reestablish the normal heart rhythm in cases of Pulseless Cardiac Arrest such as Ventricular Fibrillation & Tachycardia. If non shockable rhythm, as it is in cases of Pulseless Electrical Activity such as Asystole, they use vasopressors (such as Epinephrine [1mg Iv or IO that can be repeated q 3-5mn] or Vasopressin [40 units Iv or IO to replace 1st or 2nd dose of epinephrine]) or anticholinergics (such as Atropine [1mg IV or IO for Asystole or slow PEA rate that can be repeated every 3-5mn, up to 3 doses]);
3. they look for the causes of the event and try to treat them;
4. it can be continued for a longer time
5. and it cannot be done outside but inside an hospital

Ref.: Tarascon Emergency Pocket Book, 4th ed.; pp. 3-5

• http://depts.washington.edu/learncpr/quickcpr.html
• http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardiopulmonary_resuscitation
• http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defibrillation
• http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic_life_support
• http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Life_Support