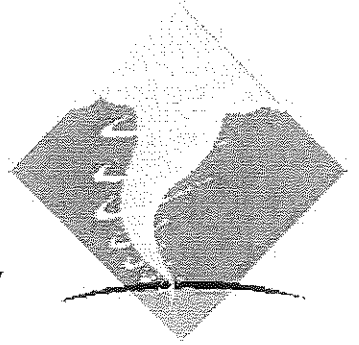


# Similes



A simile is a comparison of two unlike things using the words *like* or *as*.

Authors use similes to make their writing more interesting and vivid, to more accurately describe something or someone, and to help the reader more clearly understand the author's intended meaning.

For example, if an author writes, "*The football player was like a tornado spinning down the field,*" can you picture how the player was moving?

To understand similes, look at the two things being compared.

The author compares the *player* to a *tornado* for a reason. Think of how a tornado moves. The effect - what the author wants the reader to understand - is that the player was running down the field very fast, spinning and evading tackles along the way.

It is important to understand that not every sentence containing the word *like* or *as* is a simile. To be a simile, two things have to be compared.

Example: I really like pizza for lunch.

This sentence contains the word *like*, but no comparison is being made. This is NOT a simile!

Read the following similes. Identify the two things being compared. Then explain the effect or what the comparison helps the reader understand.



1. The toddler was as good as gold in the toy store.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The traffic moved like molasses down the crowded highway.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Her hopes shattered like icicles falling from the roof.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Big trees fell like toothpicks when Paul Bunyan swung his axe.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The surface of the lake was smooth as a sheet of glass.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Let's write some similes!

1. Write a simile about a comfortable chair.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write a simile about a confusing math problem.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write a simile about anything you want!

\_\_\_\_\_

# Metaphors

**A metaphor is a comparison of two unlike things without using the words *like* or *as*. A metaphor says that one thing is something else.**

Authors use metaphors to make their writing more interesting and vivid, to more accurately describe something or someone, and to help the reader more clearly understand their intended meaning.

For example, if an author says, "*The field trip was a real nightmare*," he/she wants the reader to understand that the trip was horrible, awful, even frightening it was so bad.

To understand metaphors, look at the two things being compared.

*The field trip was a real nightmare.*

The author is comparing the field trip to a nightmare. What do you think of when you hear the word *nightmare*? Scary, unpleasant, horrible? That is the effect or what the author wants the reader to understand about the trip by using this metaphor.

Read the following metaphors. Identify the two things being compared. Then explain what you think the author wants the reader to understand.

1. From the top floor, the people on the street below were ants on the sidewalk.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The student was known as the class clown.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



3. The news was a real headache.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_



What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Her smile is a bright ray of sunshine in my day.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

5. I hate going into Sam's room because he is such a pig.

Comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

What the author wants the reader to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

Let's write some metaphors!

1. Write a metaphor about a scratchy sweater.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write a metaphor about a scary story.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write a metaphor about a pretty rainbow.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech which is an exaggeration. Such statements are not literally true, but used by an author to emphasize something; a hyperbole is used for a certain effect – to make a specific point.

Authors often use **hyperboles** such as:

***Sam nearly died laughing*** – Sam didn't really almost die, but the author wants the reader to understand that he laughed very hard.

***It took forever to do my homework*** – It didn't take forever, or it wouldn't be done! The author wants the reader to understand that the work took a really long time!

Read the following hyperboles. What does it help the reader understand?

Example: Bob was as hungry as a horse. (Yes, this is also a simile!)

The reader understands: Bob was really hungry, starving.

1. She cried her eyes out. (Did her eyes really pop out?)

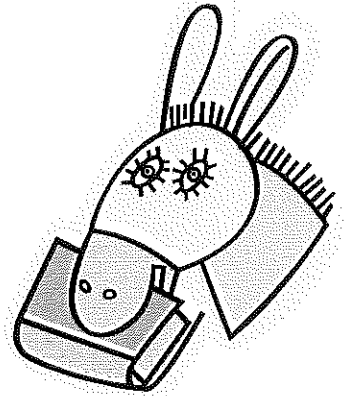
The reader understands:

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2. It's raining cats and dogs. (Are puppies and kittens really falling out of the sky? Then, why would an author use this hyperbole? This is also an idiom!)

The reader understands:

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3. I almost died from embarrassment. (Did he/she really almost die?)

The reader understands:

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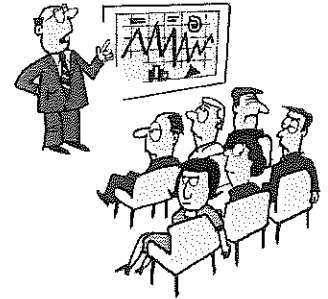
4. His mind was a million miles away. (Is his brain actually 1 million miles away from his head?)

The reader understands:

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5. The lecture went on forever. (Did it really go on forever?)

The reader understands:



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Let's write some hyperboles!

1. Write a hyperbole about hot salsa.

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2. Write a hyperbole about a big spider.

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3. Write a hyperbole about anything you want!

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