Spotting similes: answers

What your child practised: spotting similes (comparing two different things using like or as), explaining what the two things share, and writing their own.

Page 1 · Warm up

Answers will vary, e.g. as cold as **ice**, as quiet as **a mouse**, as bright as **the sun**, as slow as **a tortoise**. Each must be something different that really has that quality.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check that the two things are different kinds of thing and really share the quality.

Page 2 · A. Tick the similes

Tick **1, 4 and 6**.
2: "like" means enjoy, not compare.
3 and 5: real comparisons between people, not word pictures.

Page 3 · B. Two things and what they share

1. eyes and stars: both shine and twinkle.
2. traffic and a snail: both move very slowly.
3. hailstones and marbles: both small, hard and round, and noisy as they bounce.

Page 3 · C and D

Answers will vary, e.g. as loud as **a cannon**; as slippery as **a wet fish**; like **a warm blanket**. The moon **hung like a silver coin**. The playground was **as busy as an anthill**. Check for like or as and two different things.

Page 3 · Challenge

No. Here "like" means enjoy. Nothing is being compared, so it isn't a simile. A simile needs like or as **comparing two different things**.

Watch out for

- **Mixing up similes and metaphors.** A simile says something is **like** or **as** something else; a metaphor (Chapter 3) says it **is** that thing.
- **Thinking every "like" makes a simile**, as in "I like cake". Ask, "Is anything being compared here?"
- **Counting real comparisons**, like "as tall as his dad". Ask, "Are these two different kinds of thing? Is it a word picture or just true?"

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Simile tennis:** one says "as cold as...", the other finishes it. Then swap. Keep going until someone gets stuck.
- **Story spotting:** at bedtime, listen out for "like" and "as" and decide together whether each is a simile.
- **In the game:** Chapter 3, Metaphors: saying one thing is another.