Name _____ Date _____

Spotting similes

A simile paints a word picture by comparing two different things.

1 Learn



A **simile** compares two **different** things using **like** or **as**. It helps you picture one thing by thinking of another.

"The cushion was as soft as a cloud."



a cushion — a cloud

What they share: both are **soft, puffy and light**. Now you can almost feel the cushion!

Worked example: "The children buzzed like bees round the ice-cream van."

1. **Find like or as.** Here it's **like**.
2. **What two things are compared?** The **children** and **bees**. They're different kinds of things, so it's a simile.
3. **What do they share?** Both are busy and noisy, crowding round something sweet.

Flip's tip: not every **like** or **as** makes a simile. "I **like** cake" isn't comparing anything. "Leo is **as** tall **as** his dad" compares two people, and it's really true, so it's not a simile either.

Warm up: finish each simile with something different.

as cold as _____ as quiet as _____

as bright as _____ as slow as _____

Grown-ups: ask "What two things are being compared, and what do they have in common?" The second half of that question is the important bit: a good simile picks something that really shares the quality.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



As ___ as a ___ hunt

You need: things around the house, this sheet and a pencil.

1. Take turns to choose something in the room, like a radiator, a pillow or the fridge.
2. Say one word that describes it: "The radiator is **warm**."
3. Think of something **different** that is very warm too: "as warm as **toast**".
4. Write your simile and what the two things share. Who can think of the most surprising one?

Thing at home	My simile	What they share
radiator	The radiator was as warm as toast.	both warm and cosy

Grown-ups: if your child says "as warm as a heater", ask if a heater is really different from a radiator. Surprising comparisons (toast, a cat on a sunny windowsill) make the best pictures.

3 Practise

A. Tick each sentence that is a **simile**. Careful: three are not!

- ☐ 1. The lake was like a mirror.
- ☐ 2. I like cheese on toast.
- ☐ 3. Mia is as tall as her brother.
- ☐ 4. The car zoomed off like a rocket.
- ☐ 5. Leo looks like his dad.
- ☐ 6. The kitten's fur was as soft as silk.

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B. Underline the **two things** being compared. Then write what they **share**.

1. Her eyes sparkled like stars.

They share: _____

2. The traffic was as slow as a snail.

They share: _____

3. Hailstones rattled on the roof like marbles.

They share: _____

C. Finish each simile so it paints a clear picture.

The thunder was as loud as

_____

The ice was as slippery as

_____

Gran's hug was like

_____

D. Write your own simile about each one.

the moon at night

_____

_____

a busy playground

_____

_____

Challenge

Mia says, "'I like my new trainers' is a simile, because it has the word 'like' in it." Is she right? Explain.

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ spot a simile by finding like or as comparing two different things
- ☐ say what the two things in a simile share
- ☐ write my own simile that paints a clear picture