

Similes, Metaphors, and Personification

Both **similes** and **metaphors** are forms of comparison that compare words in a sentence. They can be used to make your sentences more interesting. How are **similes** and **metaphors** different?

A **simile** is a word that compares words in a sentence. You can usually tell if a **simile** is present in a sentence when you see the words **as** or **like**.

Don ate his salad **like** a vacuum cleaner.

His arms were weak and felt **like** noodles.

The thunder was as loud **as** fireworks.



You can see that the underlined words in the sentences above are compared to each other. The words **as** and **like** are bolded to show that a **simile** occurs in this sentence.

Like a simile, a **metaphor** compares words in a sentence; however, instead of saying that one thing is **like** something else, a **metaphor** actually makes one thing become something very different by **renaming** it. A metaphor can sometimes use words like **is**, **are**, or **was** (and other words) to signal that a metaphor is present. However, a metaphor **never** uses the words **like** or **as** to compare.

The smoke **was** cotton balls billowing from the chimney.

You **are** my hero.

The sun **was** a furnace.



You can see in these examples that the first underlined word is actually renamed by the second underlined word. The bolded words are bolded to show that the second underlined word **is** something else.

A. Below are sentences that contain **similes** and **metaphors**. Underline the two words in each sentence that are being compared.

1. The cat's fur was a blanket of warmth.
2. The lamp was a beacon of sunshine.
3. The fireworks were a lantern in the sky.
4. John slept like a log.
5. Mary was as sweet as pie.
6. George is lightning as he runs the race.
7. Gwen sings like an expert.
8. Mark's voice is velvet.
9. Cindy is a fish when she swims.
10. Tom is like a computer when he does his math.



B. Write on the lines below whether each sentence above is a **simile** or a **metaphor**. Write **S** for **simile** or **M** for **metaphor**.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Similes, Metaphors, and Personification

A. Below are several sentences. If a **metaphor** is present, write a **simile** to take its place. If a **simile** is present, write a **metaphor** to take its place. It is fine to slightly modify your sentences in your answers.

1. Mike is a chef when he's in the kitchen.

2. Barbara is as hungry as a horse.

3. The car was a jet when it passed by us.

4. Kenny played the violin like an expert.

5. The music was as soothing as rain.

6. The grass is a green carpet for the golfers.

7. The inside of the car was a refrigerator.

8. Beth became the dance as the music played.

9. His stomach was a bottomless pit.

Similes, Metaphors, and Personification

Personification is the act of giving non-living things human characteristics.

Here is a sample of a short paragraph that uses **personification** to describe a house.

Our house is an old friend of ours. Although he creaks and groans with every gust of wind, he never fails to protect us from the elements. He wraps his arms of bricks and mortar around us and keeps us safe. He's always been a good friend to us and we would never leave him.

- A. Underline all words and phrases above that show **personification**.
- B. Finish the sentences below with examples of **personification**. Remember to choose a word that would normally be a characteristic or an action of a human. The first one has been done for you.

1. The snow whispered as it fell to the ground.
2. The baseball bat _____ as Casey hit the ball.
3. The printer _____ out the copies that I printed.
4. The cup _____ an entire jar of tea.
5. The floor _____ as the elephant walked across it.
6. The car _____ as the key was turned.
7. The alarm clock _____ that it was time to get up.
8. The stars _____ at us from the night sky.
9. The chocolate cake was _____ my name.
10. The old refrigerator _____ a sad tune as it ran.



Similes, Metaphors, and Personification

A. Write a sentence that shows **personification** for each item listed below.



1. lightning

2. car



3. stars



4. wind



Lesson 8
Day 5

Date: _____

Similes, Metaphors,
and Personification

A. Write on each line whether the sentence contains a **simile**, **metaphor**, or **personification**.

1. _____ He is like a rocket on his bike.

2. _____ The fire roared to life.

3. _____ The leaves fell like rain.

4. _____ The glasses danced on the shelf during the earthquake.

5. _____ The clock is the keeper of time.

6. _____ The water called invitingly to the hot children.

7. _____ The rusty door hinge screamed every time the door opened.

8. _____ The wind was like a piercing arrow.

9. _____ The stage was the canvas upon which the play was painted.

10. _____ The train screamed down the tracks.

11. _____ Music is the salve that soothes us.

12. _____ The swing rocked like a baby learning to walk.

13. _____ Fruit is fuel for a healthy body.

14. _____ The fresh apple was crispy like a new dollar bill.

15. _____ Water is the hammer that erodes the rocks.

