

Lesson
28

Similes and Metaphors

Teaching

You can paint strong word pictures by comparing two things that share some qualities. A **simile** is a comparison of two things that have some quality in common. A simile contains a word such as *like*, *as*, *resembles*, or *than*. A **metaphor** is a comparison of two things that does not use *like*, *as*, *resembles*, or *than*. Instead, it states that one thing actually is something else.

When my brother makes dinner, the kitchen looks **like** a battleground.

The sink, filled with dirty dishes, is as crowded and messy **as** a junkyard.

The countertops are a nightmare of stains, spills, and potato peelings.

Comparison	Characteristics	Things Compared
Simile	With <i>like</i> , <i>as</i> , <i>resembles</i> , or <i>than</i>	kitchen / battleground; sink / junkyard
Metaphor	Without <i>like</i> , <i>as</i> , <i>resembles</i> , or <i>than</i>	countertops / nightmare

A. Identifying Similes and Metaphors

Underline the two items being compared in each sentence. Then write **S** if the comparison is a simile and **M** if it is a metaphor.

- _____ 1. The rain felt like small kisses on Rosemary's face.
- _____ 2. The moon was a ball of green cheese.
- _____ 3. My cousin's baby is a perpetual motion machine.
- _____ 4. When Evan blushes, his round face resembles a stop sign.
- _____ 5. The news was more shocking than a thousand volts of electricity.
- _____ 6. "An increase in my allowance is as necessary as carrying water in the desert," Sarah argued.
- _____ 7. When he slam-dunks a basketball, Rich is a pouncing leopard.
- _____ 8. The fabric was darker than a moonless night.
- _____ 9. The audience watching the movie was like a zooful of noisy animals.
- _____ 10. An ocean of clothes tumbled out of the closet when I opened it.

Similes and Metaphors

More Practice

B. Similes and Metaphors in Action

Identify each sentence as a simile or a metaphor. Then explain the meaning of the comparison.

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| 1. The classroom was a hive of worker bees.
(simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ | 6. The news was as unpleasant as a dose of
cough medicine. (simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ |
| 2. Traveling to other countries is like trying on
other lives. (simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ | 7. The bathrobe was softer than a puppy's fur.
(simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ |
| 3. Getting my little sister dressed for school is
more complicated than a rocket launch.
(simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ | 8. When it comes to keeping secrets, Harry is a
chattering parrot. (simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ |
| 4. My grandfather's hands are roadmaps of
wrinkles. (simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ | 9. "That pile of dirty laundry is a science
experiment," my mother complained.
(simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ |
| 5. The seven-layer sandwich resembled a
skyscraper. (simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ | 10. My plan to raise money for the French club
turned out to be as popular as a sardine-and-
cinnamon pizza. (simile / metaphor)
meaning: _____ |

C. Vocabulary Challenge

Complete each sentence by writing a simile or metaphor as indicated. Then write the meaning of your comparison.

- Metaphor:** Our basketball team is _____
meaning: _____
- Metaphor:** The spelling bee was _____
meaning: _____
- Simile:** Uncle Steve's chocolate cake tastes _____
meaning: _____
- Simile:** That soccer uniform smells _____
meaning: _____
- Metaphor:** Summer is _____
meaning: _____