

A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two different things. The simile is usually in a phrase that begins with the words "as" or "like." This is different from a metaphor, which is also a comparison but one says something *is* something else.

Hopefully, these simile examples for kids will get them excited about reading and writing.

Simile Examples Using As

In this similes list the phrases use the format "*as* something *as* something else" to make a comparison:

As American as apple pie	As big as an elephant
As black as coal	As blind as a bat
As boring as watching paint dry	As brave as a lion
As busy as a bee	As cheap as dirt
As clean as a whistle	As clear as mud
As clear as crystal	As cold as ice
As cool as a cucumber	As cunning as a fox
As dead as a doornail	As deaf as a post
As difficult as nailing jelly to a tree	As dry as a bone
As dull as dishwater	As easy as ABC

Simile Examples Using Like

These similes compare using the format "something *like* something else:"

Sing like an angel	Act like an animal
Eat like a bird	Fight like cats and dogs
Work like a dog	Work like a dream
Soar like an eagle	Sound like fingernails on a chalkboard
Swim like a fish	Racing like a scared bunny
Have eyes like a hawk	Eat like a horse
Sleep like a log	Gravitate like a moth to the flame
Eat like a pig	Smell like a rose
Sound like a screaming baby	Shine like the stars
Meander like a stream	Exploded like a volcano

Simile Sentence Examples

Did you have any favorites from the similes lists above? Let's pull out a few and see how similes can make our writing more interesting and colorful.

- During the house fire, my Dad was **as brave as a lion**.
- Sunday is cleaning day. By the time we're done, the house is **as clean as a whistle**.
- That teacher was **as dull as dishwater**.
- I think my grandfather is **as old as these hills**!
- This house of cards is **as sturdy as an oak**.
- My best friend sings **like an angel**.
- After I received that "A" on my spelling test, I thought I might **soar like an eagle**.
- Gah! Her voice sounds **like nails on a chalkboard**!
- In our eighth grade pageant, we **shone like stars**.
- This path **meanders like a stream**.

METAPHORS AND SIMILES

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Metaphors and similes both help the reader understand a subject by comparing it to something else. But, they are different...

METAPHOR		SIMILE
A comparison between two things that <i>are not alike</i> and replaces the word with another word.	DEFINITION	A comparison between two things that are <i>not alike</i> and replaces the word with another word AND uses the word <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>
To paint a picture for the reader	PURPOSE	To paint a picture AND give an example
The subject is said to be <i>another</i>	QUICK MEMORY TIP	The subject is <i>as</i> or <i>like</i> another
The toast <i>jumped out of the toaster</i> . I'm so hungry <i>I could eat a horse</i> . I told you a million times to clean your room.	EXAMPLES	She cried <i>like a baby</i> . Life is <i>like a box of chocolates</i> . He was <i>as busy as a bee</i> . She was <i>snug as a bug in a rug</i> . He was <i>blind as a bat</i> .