

What is a Simile?

Name: _____



Figurative language includes special forms that writers use to help readers make a strong connection to their words. A **simile** is one kind of figurative language. It makes a comparison of two unlike things using the words "like" or "as".

Has your grandma ever told you that you were **as cute as a bug's ear**? Maybe your dad has told you to hurry up, because you were **slow like a snail**. These comparisons are both **similes**.

Similes are made by looking at one characteristic of a creature or thing, and showing how another creature or thing shares the same characteristic. **Read each of the words below. For each word, write one or two words on the line that describe its strongest characteristic.** (In the examples above, *cute* describes the bug's ear, and *slow* describes the snail.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Tiger _____ fierce _____ | 2. Car _____ |
| 3. Ice cream _____ | 4. Ocean _____ |
| 5. Rollercoaster _____ | 6. Baby _____ |

Now for each word you wrote on the lines, think of something else that has that same characteristic. Use that information to write your similes below. Remember to use "like" or "as" in your comparison.

1. My pet dog is as fierce as a tiger.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

What is a Metaphor?

Name: _____



Figurative language includes special forms that writers use to help readers make a strong connection to their words. A **metaphor** is one kind of figurative language. It makes a direct comparison of two unlike things. You can tell the difference between a metaphor and a simile because a simile uses the words "like" or "as", and a metaphor does not. Metaphors often usually use a form of the verb "to be". The verb can be in the past tense (was, were), the present tense (am, is, are), or future tense (will be).

Have you ever had to do a chore you thought was so big you would never finish it? You can use a metaphor to describe it!

The laundry was a mountain on the couch, and I had to fold it all!

Connecting the laundry to a mountain, something understood to be huge, emphasizes the fact that the chore is a large one.

Read the sentences below. Explain what the metaphor compares, and why.

1. My dad is a bear in the morning before he drinks his coffee!

_____ is being compared to _____
because _____.

2. The wind was an angry witch, howling across the night sky.

_____ is being compared to _____
because _____.

3. When it was her turn to dance, Melissa was a graceful butterfly flitting across the stage.

_____ is being compared to _____
because _____.

4. Steven's angry words were bullets that hit Greg right in his heart.

_____ is being compared to _____
because _____.