

## Simile - Theory

### REVISE

- ✓ A simile is a literary device that compares two unrelated things. In a simile, something is said to be like or acting the same as something else. Look for the comparative words 'as' and 'like' when identifying similes.

Similes are an example of figurative language, meaning they shouldn't be taken literally. They make your writing more descriptive and engaging by helping a reader to accurately visualise what you are describing.

### Example 1:

The girl's face beamed as brightly as the sun.

### Explanation:

By comparing the girl's face to the brightness of the sun, the writer shows that she is full of delight and happiness. It uses our positive associations with light and the sun to suggest that she is filled with joy.

### Example 2:

The children's screams were like nails scraping a chalkboard.

### Explanation:

Here, the writer emphasises the unpleasant sound of the children's screams by comparing them to the grating sound of nails scratching a chalkboard. This comparison allows the reader to vividly imagine the awful, screechy sound.

**Example 3:**

Clouds filled the sky like an invading army.

**Explanation:**

By comparing the clouds to an invading army, the writer suggests that they are unwelcome and threatening. The comparison tells us that they are seizing the clear sky and claiming it for their own. Through this image, the writer creates an unsettling and foreboding atmosphere.

**Example 4:**

Leaves spun in the wind like ballet dancers.

**Explanation:**

By comparing the leaves to ballet dancers, the writer suggests that they are moving in a graceful and elegant manner. The comparison enables the reader to imagine the gentle movement of the leaves by likening it to dancing.

**Example 5:**

Jessie's face turned as red as a tomato.

**Explanation:**

Here, the writer compares Jessie's face to a tomato. This tells us that her face is bright red, suggesting that she is very embarrassed or ashamed. This vivid comparison allows us to picture her face and imagine her emotional state.

**PRACTICE**

1 Which statement is true?

- A. In a simile, words are repeated to add emphasis.
- B. Similes give human characteristics to objects.
- C. A simile is where the sounds at the beginning of consecutive words are repeated.
- D. A simile compares two different things using the words 'as' or 'like'.
- E. Similes should be taken literally.

**Mark Scheme**

Hints	A simile is a comparative technique.
Answer	D - A simile compares two different things using the words 'as' or 'like'.
Answer Explanation	This is the correct definition of a simile. Similes use the comparative words 'as' or 'like' to compare two unlike things.



2

**Cloze**

The soldiers stood as tall as **(i)** \_\_\_\_\_. As they marched, their khaki uniforms scratched at their skin like **(ii)** \_\_\_\_\_. The sound of their rubber boots pounding the ground echoed like **(iii)** \_\_\_\_\_, creating a sinister soundtrack. Lewis tried to hide his fear, but his body trembled like a **(iv)** \_\_\_\_\_. He turned to one of his comrades and saw that his face had turned as white as a **(v)** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Select a word to fill in the blanks and complete the similes.**

- A. sandpaper
- B. leaf
- C. sheet
- D. mountains
- E. thunder

**Mark Scheme**

i)

Hints	The writer wants to emphasise how tall the soldiers look. Which option reflects this?
Answer	D - mountains
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>stood as tall as mountains</i> tells us that the soldiers are standing tall, giving them an intimidating and daunting presence.



ii)

Hints	The writer wants to emphasise that the uniforms are rough on their skin. Which option reflects this?
Answer	A - sandpaper
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>scratched at their skin like sandpaper</i> tells us that the soldiers' uniforms are rough and scraping against their skin. This emphasises the discomfort of their clothes.

iii)

Hints	The writer wants to emphasise that their footsteps are loud. Which option reflects this?
Answer	E - thunder
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>echoed like thunder</i> shows that the sound of the soldiers' footsteps was very loud and menacing.



iv)

Hints	The writer wants to show that Lewis' body is shaking uncontrollably. Which option reflects this?
Answer	B - leaf
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>trembled like a leaf</i> shows that Lewis is shaking frantically. The image of the 'leaf' indicates his anxiety and sense of weakness.

v)

Hints	The writer wants to show that the soldier's face is very pale. Which option reflects this?
Answer	C - sheet
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>turned as pale as a sheet</i> shows that the soldier's face has turned white with fear/worry. This common simile uses the image of a bed 'sheet', which are usually white, to emphasise his paleness.



3

Select the word that completes each simile.

Column 1

- i. She was as innocent as a...
- ii. My skin is as smooth as...
- iii. Its eyes were as black as...
- iv. The old lady was a blind as a...
- v. The room was as cold as...

Column 2

- A. ice
- B. night
- C. lamb
- D. silk
- E. bat

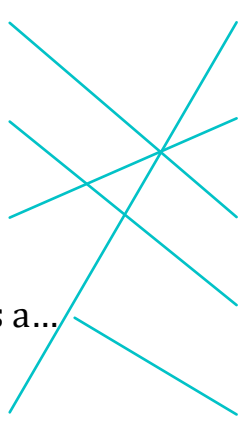
Mark Scheme

Column 1

- i. She was as innocent as a...
- ii. My skin is as smooth as...
- iii. Its eyes were as black as...
- iv. The old lady was a blind as a...
- v. The room was as cold as...

Column 2

- A. ice
- B. night
- C. lamb
- D. silk
- E. bat



i)

Hints	Which option suggests innocence?
Answer	C - lamb
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>as innocent as a lamb</i> suggests faultlessness and blamelessness as lambs are seen to be innocent.

ii)

Hints	Which option suggests smoothness?
Answer	D - Silk
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>as smooth as silk</i> means soft and smooth as silk is sleek and glossy.

iii)

Hints	Which option suggests darkness?
Answer	B - night
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>as black as night</i> tells us that the person's eyes are dark and mysterious.



iv)

Hints	Which option tells us that the lady cannot see?
Answer	E - bat
Answer Explanation	As bats are blind, this emphasises how little the old lady can see. This is a common simile often used to describe blindness.

v)

Hints	Which option suggests that something is cold?
Answer	A - ice
Answer Explanation	The simile <i>as cold as ice</i> tells us that the room is very cold as ice is freezing.

4 Scenario-based

Describe the setting using similes. Write three sentences. One has been done for you.

i  
The mist covered the mountains  
like a veil.



ii

iii

iv



Mark Scheme

<p>Model Answer</p>	<p>i) → The mist covered the mountains <u>like a veil</u>. → The leaves trembled <u>like a fearful kitten</u>. → Snowflakes fell <u>like crystal tears from the sky</u>.</p> <p>ii) → The trees stood <u>as defiant as rebels</u>. → The chalet was hidden <u>like a secret</u>. → The snow was <u>as thick as cement</u>.</p> <p>iii) → Snow covered the trees <u>like a blanket</u>. → The wind howled <u>like a wolf</u>. → The house was submerged <u>like an arctic submarine</u>.</p> <p>iv) → The snow was <u>as soft as silk</u>. → The mist was <u>as impenetrable as a guarded fortress</u>. → People huddled inside the house <u>like penguins</u>.</p>
-------------------------	--



5

### Rapid Fire

**1. Complete the simile:**

Her eyes were as blue as \_\_\_\_\_ .

**2. Does the following sentence contain a simile?**

Her face was a storm of emotion.

**3. Which two words can help you identify a simile?**

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Complete the simile:**

His voice was as soothing as a \_\_\_\_\_ .

**5. Is the following statement true or false?**

Similes make your writing more engaging.

**6. Does the following sentence contain a simile?**

The man slept like a baby.

**7. Complete the simile:**

The \_\_\_\_\_ bounced around the room like excited puppies.

**8. Is the following statement true or false?**

Similes are an example of figurative language and should not be taken literally.

**9. Does the following sentence contain a simile?**

As the girl walked down the road, she whistled a soulful tune.

**10. Complete the simile:**

I ran like \_\_\_\_\_ to catch the bus.



Mark Scheme

i)

Hints	Think of something blue to which you could compare the person's eyes.
Answer	Accept any word/phrase that logically completes the simile, e.g. <i>the ocean, the sea, the sky.</i>
Answer Explanation	Students need to pick something which creates a comparison between the person's eyes and another object/thing. Any sensible blue items can be used.

ii)

Hints	Does this sentence contain the comparative word <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> ?
Answer	No
Answer Explanation	This is not a simile; it is a metaphor as it does not use the comparative word <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> .

iii)

Hints	Think of two comparative words.
Answer	' <i>Like</i> ' and ' <i>As</i> '
Answer Explanation	The words <i>as</i> and <i>like</i> can help us identify similes as they show that something is being compared to something else.



iv)

Hints	Think of something that is soothing/calming to which you can compare the boy's voice.
Answer	Accept any word/phrase that logically completes the simile, e.g., <i>a lullaby, a hymn, a peaceful chant.</i>
Answer Explanation	Students need to pick something which creates a comparison between the person's voice and another object/thing to reflect how soothing it is.

v)

Hints	Remember: similes help readers to visualise the description.
Answer	True
Answer Explanation	Similes use comparison to help build an image in the reader's mind. They use abstract comparisons to make descriptions more vivid and interesting.

vi)

Hints	Look out for the comparative words <i>as</i> and <i>like</i> .
Answer	Yes
Answer Explanation	This is a simile because it compares the sleeping man to a sleeping baby using the word ' <i>like</i> '. This shows he is sleeping soundly and deeply as this is how babies sleep.



vii)

Hints	Think of a noun that would make sense in the context. It needs to be plural, as the simile refers to 'excited puppies'.
Answer	Accept any word/phrase that logically completes the simile, e.g. <i>The children, the girls, the boys.</i>
Answer Explanation	Students need to pick someone or something that can be compared to a group of excited puppies.

viii)

Hints	Is the comparison made in a simile abstract or literal?
Answer	True
Answer Explanation	Similes are examples of figurative language, meaning that they work in a metaphorical way. The comparisons should not be taken literally, but they should logically enhance the description.



ix)

Hints	Is anything being compared to something else in this sentence?
Answer	No
Answer Explanation	There is no simile in this sentence. The word 'as' isn't being used in a comparative context here; it is being used as a fronted adverbial.

x)

Hints	Think of something that moves quickly.
Answer	Accept any word/phrase that logically completes the simile, e.g. <i>the wind, a cheetah, a sports car.</i>
Answer Explanation	Students need to pick someone or something that compares the speed of the speaker to something else that moves quickly.