

Similes

Similes compare two unlike things. Similes:

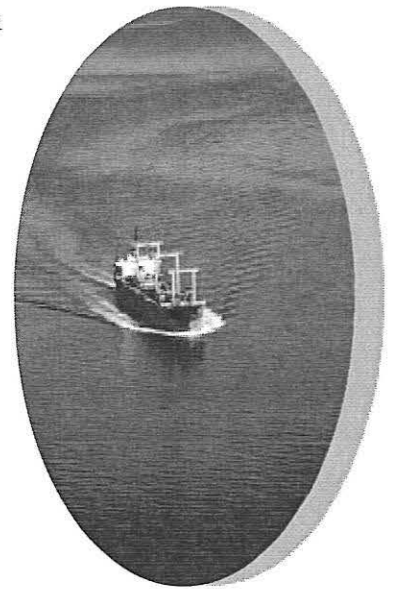
- Use the word *like* or *as* to signal the comparison
- Help readers picture what is being described
- Relate unfamiliar things to familiar things

In a simile, the word *like* or *as* joins the two things being compared. Similes help you understand how something looks, feels, moves, or acts.

Similes That Use <i>like</i>	Similes That Use <i>as</i>
The barge eased through the canal <i>like</i> a knife slicing through warm butter.	The river shimmered <i>as</i> if jewels were beneath the water.
Because the wind was so strong, the seagulls had to walk sideways <i>like</i> crabs.	As a result of the drought, the ground was dry <i>as</i> a lizard's skin.

Similes also can help you figure out the meanings of words that you do not know. In similes, those words are compared to something you might know. Look at the examples from the sentences above.

- You could understand the meaning of *eased* by picturing how simple it is to cut through warm butter.
- You could understand the meaning of *shimmered* by thinking of words that describe jewels, such as *sparkle*, *glitter*, *shine*, and so on.
- The meaning of *sideways* becomes clearer when you think about how crabs move.
- The sentence lets you know that *drought* is connected to “dry ground,” but the image of the lizard’s skin helps you understand that *drought* has to do with severe dryness and lack of rain.



A Complete these sentences. Choose words that will help people picture what is being described.

1. The pillow was as soft as _____
2. The man's kind words were like _____
3. His heart pounded like _____
4. The wind howled as if _____
5. Spring smelled sweet like _____

B Follow the directions in order to write your own similes.

1. Make a list of things that have curves. _____

Write a simile that could help someone picture a very curvy road. _____



2. Make a list of things that move very quickly. _____

Write a simile to help someone see a person running at top speed. _____

3. Make a list of things that are smooth. _____

Write a simile that could help someone picture a smooth lake. _____