

Name _____

Date _____

English - "As Big As" - Similes

Let's talk about **similes**. The word simile comes from a Latin word meaning sameness, or the same as. We use similes all the time when we speak, without even thinking about it.

Writers use similes too when they describe things by **comparing** them to other things. For example, instead of describing something as big, you could say it is as big as a house; or instead of saying someone runs fast, you could say he runs like the wind. Which one helps you 'see' or understand better how big or how fast is meant? A good simile makes both your speaking and your writing more interesting.

Similes are easy to recognise. They have two **grammar patterns**. Both grammar patterns were used in the examples above. One is "**as** (something) **as** (something)" and the other is "(something) **like** (something)". The words 'as' or 'like' tell us we are making a **comparison**.

Some similes are obvious. We all know that houses are big, for instance, so 'as big as a house' suggests to us something that is very big. However, some similes have been part of the language for so long that we might have difficulty understanding the comparison. For example, why do we say 'as cute as a button'? No one knows! But this simile has been used for over 200 years!

Of course, we don't only have to use well-known similes. It's often much more fun to make up our own. (How about, as cute as a bunny's tail?) It is important to be able to identify and interpret, or understand the meaning of, those already in use.

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English - "As Big As" – Similes Questions

A: Complete the simile

Here is a list of similes. See if you can find the missing word in the table opposite and draw a line to connect the two. The first three were done for you in the reading.

1. As cute as ...
2. He ran like ...
3. As big as ...
4. It fits like ...
5. As comfortable as ...
6. They fought like ...
7. As flat as ...
8. He laughs like ...
9. As hard as ...
10. I slept like ...

A rock
Cats and dogs
The wind
An old shoe
A hyena
A button
A baby
A pancake
A glove
A house

B: Create your own

Choose five of the similes above but complete them using your own examples (as I did with the bunny's tail).

C. Using similes

Now write a paragraph about anything you like, using one of your own similes.

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English - "As Big As" – Similes Answers

Activity A

1. As cute as a button.
2. He ran like the wind.
3. As big as a house.
4. It fits like a glove.
5. As comfortable as an old shoe.
6. They fought like cats and dogs.
7. As flat as a pancake.
8. He laughs like a hyena.
9. As hard as a rock.
10. I slept like a baby.

Activity B

This is limited only by the children's imaginations, but the similes should be appropriate.

Activity C

As above.