

Metaphor or Simile?

Name _____ Date _____

The one-word rule. A **simile** uses *like* or *as* — “Her voice was like music.” A **metaphor** says it straight, with no *like* and no *as* — “Her voice was music.”

Circle **M** for metaphor or **S** for simile.

1. Her voice was music.	M ☐	S ☐
2. He runs like the wind.	M ☐	S ☐
3. The classroom was a beehive.	M ☐	S ☐
4. My cousin is as brave as a lion.	M ☐	S ☐
5. The snow was like a white carpet.	M ☐	S ☐
6. The city was an oven.	M ☐	S ☐
7. Time is money.	M ☐	S ☐
8. His hands were as cold as ice.	M ☐	S ☐
9. She sings like an angel.	M ☐	S ☐
10. The lake was a mirror.	M ☐	S ☐
11. Homework is a mountain tonight.	M ☐	S ☐
12. The baby's skin is as soft as silk.	M ☐	S ☐
13. The old car coughed like a smoker.	M ☐	S ☐
14. His excuse was a house of cards.	M ☐	S ☐
15. Grief is a heavy coat.	M ☐	S ☐
16. He was as quiet as a mouse.	M ☐	S ☐
17. Her eyes shone like stars.	M ☐	S ☐
18. The library was a sanctuary.	M ☐	S ☐
19. The wind howled like a wolf.	M ☐	S ☐
20. Practice is the ladder to skill.	M ☐	S ☐

Sort It: Metaphor, Simile or Idiom

Name _____ Date _____

Three things, not two. A **metaphor** calls one thing another thing, and you can work out why. A **simile** does the same but uses *like* or *as*. An **idiom** is a fixed phrase you simply have to know — you cannot reason it out from the words, and you cannot change them.

Tick one box for each sentence.

	METAPHOR	SIMILE	IDIOM
1 The test was a breeze.	☐	☐	☐
2 I am going to hit the hay.	☐	☐	☐
3 She is as busy as a bee.	☐	☐	☐
4 My heart was a drum.	☐	☐	☐
5 He is feeling under the weather.	☐	☐	☐
6 The box was as light as a feather.	☐	☐	☐
7 Tomorrow is a blank page.	☐	☐	☐
8 They painted the town red.	☐	☐	☐
9 He slept like a log.	☐	☐	☐
10 The staff room was a zoo.	☐	☐	☐
11 He is a chip off the old block.	☐	☐	☐
12 The sheet was as white as snow.	☐	☐	☐
13 Her mind is a filing cabinet.	☐	☐	☐
14 Let us break the ice with a game.	☐	☐	☐
15 They fought like cats and dogs.	☐	☐	☐
16 The old oak is a giant.	☐	☐	☐
17 She let the cat out of the bag.	☐	☐	☐
18 My hands were as cold as stone.	☐	☐	☐
19 Fear is a shadow.	☐	☐	☐
20 We go there once in a blue moon.	☐	☐	☐
21 The room was as cold as ice.	☐	☐	☐

What Does It Mean?

Name _____ Date _____

Say it plainly. A metaphor borrows one thing's qualities to describe another. Write what the sentence really means — without using the picture word. *"The classroom was a beehive" → everyone was busy and noisy at once.*

1. The classroom was a beehive.

2. Her words were ice.

3. Her patience was a thin thread.

4. The project was a train wreck.

5. My little brother is a sponge.

6. Childhood is a short summer.

7. That company is a well-oiled machine.

8. The wind was a whip.

9. His anger was a fire that burned out.

10. Practice is the ladder to skill.

Write Your Own Metaphor

Name _____

Date _____

1 Name what you are describing. *the busy classroom*

2 Say how it feels, not how it looks. *noisy, everyone moving at once*

3 Find something that feels the same. *a beehive*

4 Join with *is* or *was*. No *like*, no *as*. "*The classroom was a beehive.*"

Write one metaphor for each. If you used *like* or *as*, you wrote a simile — go back and take it out.

1. **a busy classroom**

2. **a very long wait**

3. **a kind teacher**

4. **a hard test**

5. **a rainy day**

6. **a best friend**

7. **a messy bedroom**

8. **a fast runner**

Answer Key

Sheet 1 — Metaphor or Simile

1. **M** Her voice was music.
2. **S** He runs like the wind.
3. **M** The classroom was a beehive.
4. **S** My cousin is as brave as a lion.
5. **S** The snow was like a white carpet.
6. **M** The city was an oven.
7. **M** Time is money.
8. **S** His hands were as cold as ice.
9. **S** She sings like an angel.
10. **M** The lake was a mirror.
11. **M** Homework is a mountain tonight.
12. **S** The baby's skin is as soft as silk.
13. **S** The old car coughed like a smoker.
14. **M** His excuse was a house of cards.
15. **M** Grief is a heavy coat.
16. **S** He was as quiet as a mouse.
17. **S** Her eyes shone like stars.
18. **M** The library was a sanctuary.
19. **S** The wind howled like a wolf.
20. **M** Practice is the ladder to skill.

Sheet 2 — Metaphor, Simile or Idiom

1. **M** The test was a breeze.
2. **I** I am going to hit the hay.
3. **S** She is as busy as a bee.
4. **M** My heart was a drum.
5. **I** He is feeling under the weather.
6. **S** The box was as light as a feather.
7. **M** Tomorrow is a blank page.
8. **I** They painted the town red.
9. **S** He slept like a log.
10. **M** The staff room was a zoo.
11. **I** He is a chip off the old block.
12. **S** The sheet was as white as snow.
13. **M** Her mind is a filing cabinet.
14. **I** Let us break the ice with a game.
15. **S** They fought like cats and dogs.
16. **M** The old oak is a giant.
17. **I** She let the cat out of the bag.
18. **S** My hands were as cold as stone.
19. **M** Fear is a shadow.
20. **I** We go there once in a blue moon.
21. **S** The room was as cold as ice.

M metaphor **S** simile **I** idiom

Answer Key

Sheet 3 — What Does It Mean?

1. **The classroom was a beehive.**

Everyone was busy, moving and talking at once.

2. **Her words were ice.**

She spoke in a cold, unfriendly way.

3. **Her patience was a thin thread.**

She was very close to losing her temper.

4. **The project was a train wreck.**

The project went badly wrong in an obvious, messy way.

5. **My little brother is a sponge.**

He absorbs everything he hears and repeats it back.

6. **Childhood is a short summer.**

Childhood is warm and bright but over quickly.

7. **That company is a well-oiled machine.**

It runs smoothly and every part does its job.

8. **The wind was a whip.**

The wind was sharp and stung the skin.

9. **His anger was a fire that burned out.**

He was furious at first, then it faded.

10. **Practice is the ladder to skill.**

You get good by climbing steadily, one step at a time.

Sheet 4 — Write Your Own

There is no single right answer. Accept any sentence that calls one thing another thing and does not use *like* or *as*. These are samples only.

1. **a busy classroom** → The classroom was a beehive.

2. **a very long wait** → The wait was a desert.

3. **a kind teacher** → Mr Ellis is a warm blanket.

4. **a hard test** → The test was a brick wall.

5. **a rainy day** → The afternoon was a grey curtain.

6. **a best friend** → My best friend is an anchor.

7. **a messy bedroom** → My bedroom is a shipwreck.

8. **a fast runner** → Priya is a rocket off the line.