

# Figures of Speech

## Metaphors and Simile

Confucius Is I-(About Similes and Metaphors)

B1-B2

Module 8

Here's What  
We Will Be  
Learning in this  
Presentation:



## Summary

- ❑ What Are Similes and Metaphors?
- ❑ How Would You Differentiate Between a Simile and a Metaphor?
- ❑ Exercises.

People use '**similes**' and '**metaphors**' usually to express opinion or emotion, e.g. when speaking romantically, if your sweetheart says, your eyes are like stars... It does not mean your eyes are shaped like stars. Let's look at explanations and examples:



## Simile:

A simile is a figure of speech which makes a comparison or shows similarities between two different things. This is done with the help of words "like" or "as". Therefore, it is a direct comparison.

**E.g.** "John is as slow as a snail." This simile refers to John's speed compared to that of a snail. You must remember **not** to use "as" and "like" in the same sentence!

## **Example:**

*Correct: Our soldiers are as brave as lions.*

*Incorrect: Our soldiers are as brave like lions.*



4-21

© 2007 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

**"Our car's engine can imitate  
Kittycat! Daddy said it's  
purring like a kitten!"**

## Metaphor:

Metaphor is a figure of speech which makes an implicit, implied or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated but share some common characteristics.

E.g. "He is the black sheep of the family" is a metaphor because he is not a sheep, however, he has the characteristics of a black sheep, which is an unusual animal and typically stays away from the herd.

## **Examples:**

My brother was boiling mad. (This implies he was too angry and not that the brother was boiling in water.)

The assignment was a breeze. (This does not mean the assignment was on describing a breeze, but that it was easy.)

**METAPHORS HAVE A  
WAY OF HOLDING THE  
MOST TRUTH IN THE  
LEAST SPACE**

ORSON SCOTT CARD

---

## Simile Vs Metaphor

While both similes and metaphors are used to make comparisons, the difference between similes and metaphors comes down to the use of words:

**Similes** are explicit or direct comparisons where we use the words *like* or *as* to compare things:

E.g.: "Life is like a box of chocolates." (Life is directly compared to a box chocolates.)

**Metaphors** are implicit or hidden comparisons:

E.g. "Love is a battlefield." (Here love is not a literal battlefield, but the implied emotions and feelings.)



Metaphor and Simile



# Exercise 1

**Identify the mistakes and correct them, in these similes:**

- 1) Her cheeks are as red like a rose.
- 2) He is funny like as a monkey.
- 3) The water well was dry as a bone.
- 4) He is like cunning as a fox.
- 5) I feel fresh as like a daisy, this morning!

# Exercise 2

**Identify the two things that are being compared:**

- 1) John is a cheetah, cunning and quick.
- 1) My grandmother's lap is a soft pillow.
- 1) Books are Sheila's vacation, they make her forget all her worries.
- 1) Cherry pie is the best medicine when I feel sad.
- 1) My cat is a circus acrobat, always jumping from one place to another.



# Exercise 3

**In these sentences, identify which ones are similes and which are metaphors. You will also need to mention what is being compared:**

- 1) The baby was like an octopus, grabbing at all the cans on the grocery store shelves.
- 1) As the teacher entered the room she muttered under her breath, "This class is like a three-ring circus!"
- 1) Each step was thunder as he crept toward the door.
- 1) I feel like a limp dishrag after cleaning the house.
- 1) The pillow was a cloud when Jill put her head on it after a long day.

- 6) The fluorescent light was the sun throughout the wet, dull, day.
- 6) No one invites Harold to parties because he's a wet blanket.
- 6) The bar of soap felt like a slippery eel during the dog's bath.
- 6) Ted was as nervous as a cat with a long tail in a room full of rocking chairs.
- 6) Those girls are like two peas in a pod.