

Name _____ Date _____

1-13. SIMILES

Your writing can be more vivid and interesting with the use of **similes** (comparisons that use the connecting words *as* or *like*). Some similes, however, have been used so often that they have become trite and boring. Try to avoid overused similes such as *cold as ice* or *quiet as a mouse*. Use more original comparisons such as *cold as an Eskimo's backyard* or *quiet as a classroom during a final exam*.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following similes. Try to be original and avoid trite comparisons.

as curious as _____

as tired as _____

as excited as _____

as furious as _____

as disgusting as _____

frightening like _____

as peaceful as _____

as brave as _____

as evil as _____

as unbelievable as _____

as difficult as _____

as hateful as _____

as loving as _____

as desperate as _____

as strange as _____

as common as _____

perfect like _____

1-14. METAPHORS

Metaphors are common in everyday life. We use them in our daily speech, hear them on television, and read them in magazines and newspapers. Metaphors make language exciting because they are shocking. They stand reality upside down by calling a thing something it is not. When we say, "Tom struck out on his job interview," we don't mean that he was playing baseball. We call something easy a *piece of cake*, but we don't expect to eat it! Metaphors are fun to read and fun to write.

A. DIRECTIONS: Underline the metaphors in the following poem:

A sunny morning at the beach,
The sand sparkles with jewels glinting under the sun.
Diamonds and pearls ride the white-crested waves,
A girl stands at the edge of the water,
She is blinded by the brilliance, but cannot look away.

B. DIRECTIONS: Write five original sentences containing metaphors. Choose from the suggestions below, or use your own ideas. **Note:** A metaphor does not use the words *as* or *like*.

- A sentence describing a moment in a sport*
- A sentence describing a car you would like to own*
- A sentence about an embarrassing moment*
- A sentence describing a visitor from outer space*
- A sentence describing an angry person*
- A sentence about a disappointing experience*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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1-17. SENSORY LANGUAGE (PART TWO)

B. DIRECTIONS: On the line next to each word, write all the sensory words that the word brings to mind. (Example: Turtle: shy, green, hard shell, wet)

1. Worm: _____
2. Ocean: _____
3. SUV: _____
4. Rap artist: _____
5. Sci-fi film: _____
6. Pizza: _____
7. Football stadium: _____
8. Dog: _____

Directions: Using the information from the exercise above, create two (2) examples each of similes, metaphors, and personification.

PERSONIFICATION

Personification is when you assign the *qualities of a person* to something that isn't human or, in some cases, to something that isn't even alive. There are many reasons for using personification. It can be used as a method of describing something so that others can understand. It can be used to emphasize a point.

A. DIRECTIONS: In the following sentences, the words in bold are the actual human characteristics assigned to non-human objects. Circle the non-human subjects being personified in the sentences below.

1. The stars **danced** playfully in the moonlit sky.
2. The run down house **appeared depressed**.
3. The first rays of morning **tiptoed** through the meadow.
4. She did not realize that opportunity **was knocking** at her door.
5. He did not realize that his last chance **was walking** out the door.

B. DIRECTIONS: The following sentences contain examples of personification. Complete the table below the sentences with the appropriate information.

EXAMPLE: The moon winked at me through the clouds above.

1. The snow swaddled the earth like a mother would her infant child.
2. The river swallowed the earth as the water continued to rise.
3. The angry ocean waves lashed out at the boat.
4. My computer throws a fit every time I try to use it.
5. The bees played hide and seek with the flowers waving in the breeze.

sentence	non-human subject	human characteristics given to subject
example	moon	ability to wink
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

C. DIRECTIONS: Create three of your own examples of personification using the starters below.

non-human subjects	human characteristics to give to subjects
TV teakettle rain tree	whistle dance beckon call squat