

Details, Details, Details

Tastes Like a Simile Is a Metaphor

Similes compare one thing to another using “like” or “as.”

Many similes are clichés (phrases that are overused and betray a lack of original thought). You should use well-known similes with care.

It's been a hard day's night, and I've been working like a dog. — The Beatles

- He's as blind as a bat.
- It was as flat as a pancake.
- She's as strong as a bull.
- You are like the sun.
- The source code was like spaghetti.
- She's like a volcano waiting to erupt.
- He's going to drink like a fish.
- Eat like a bird, poop like an elephant.
- They fight like cats and dogs.
- I want to soar like an eagle.

More examples:

Metaphors compare by saying something is something else.

The use of two or more different metaphors at the same time is normally best avoided as it can create conflicting images in a reader's mind, reduce the impact of each metaphor, and confuse your readers.

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances.
— William Shakespeare

- His home was a prison.
- They were mere sheep.
- I'm not an angel.
- America is a melting pot.
- How could she hire that snake!
- He broke into her conversation.
- The committee shot her ideas down one by one.
- His head was spinning with ideas.
- You are my sunshine.
- That book kindled my interest in dragons.

More examples:

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Similes

“A room without books is like a body without a soul.” — Marcus Tullius Cicero

“A house without books is like a room without windows.” — Horace Mann

“A day without sunshine is like, you know, night.” — Steve Martin

“He’s like a drug for you.” — Stephenie Meyer, *Eclipse*

“Love is like the wind, you can’t see it but you can feel it.” — Nicholas Sparks, *A Walk to Remember*

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.” — Albert Einstein

“Fate is like a strange, unpopular restaurant filled with odd little waiters who bring you things you never asked for and don’t always like.” — Lemony Snicket

“Some people are like Slinkies. They aren’t really good for anything, but they still bring a smile to my face when I push them down a flight of stairs.” — Patricia Briggs, *Iron Kissed*

“A mind is like a parachute. It doesn’t work if it is not open.” — Frank Zappa

“I felt like one of Apollo’s sacred cows- slow, dumb, and bright red.” — Rick Riordan, *The Last Olympian*

“Character is like a tree and reputation its shadow. The shadow is what we think it is and the tree is the real thing.” — Abraham Lincoln

“He’d felt like a jack-o-lantern for the past few days, as if his guts had been yanked out with a fork and dumped in a heap while a grinning smile stayed plastered on his face.” — Cassandra Clare, *City of Ashes*

“Once again, you show all the sensitivity of a blunt axe.” — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

“Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?” — Mark Twain

“He had electric blue hair that had stuck around his head like tendrils of a startled octopus.” — Cassandra Clare, *City of Bones*

Metaphors

“Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor.” — Truman Capote

“I want to change my punctuation. I long for exclamation marks, but I’m drowning in ellipses.” — Isaac Marion, *Warm Bodies*

“I am peanut butter rocky road with multicolored sprinkles, hot fudge and a cherry on top.” — Wendy Mass, *Every Soul a Star*

“I’d say we’re a nation of sheep, but I’d feel bad about defaming sheep that way.” — Daniel Mullarkey

“Life is a moderately good play with a badly written third act.” — Truman Capote

“If London is a watercolor, New York is an oil painting.” — Peter Shaffer

“Boredom was my bedmate and it was hogging the sheets.” — Andrew Davidson, *The Gargoyle*

“Admiration is the daughter of ignorance.” — Thomas Fuller

“Anger is the wind which blows out the lamp of the mind.” — Bodie Thoene

“The hippo of recollection stirred in the muddy waters of the mind.” — Terry Pratchett, *Soul Music*

“Sand was dribbling out of the bag of her attention, faster and faster.” — Sarah Blake

“She was a mind floating in an ocean of confusion.” — Caroline B. Cooney

“Until the thirst for power parched his throat, he was a fearless and noble lord.” — Lloyd Alexander, *The Black Cauldron*

“His smile was so wide he’d have had to break it into sections to fit it through a doorway” — Jerry Spinelli, *Maniac Magee*

“The nail that sticks out farthest gets hammered the hardest.” — Patrick Jones