




Similes

- Aim** To familiarize students with common English similes.
- Language** *as* adjective *as (a)* noun.
- Preparation** This is a simple matching exercise with a follow-up activity to reinforce students' understanding of the actual meanings of common English similes. Prior to class, copy Worksheet 3, one per student.
- Procedure**
1. First, review all of the adjectives and nouns on the Worksheet.
 2. Explain that all of these similes use the construction "Something is as [adjective] as something."
 3. When all of the vocabulary has been reviewed, have the class work in pairs or as a small group. Have students fold their papers vertically down the middle. One student reads "As slow as ..." The other student (reading from the answer list) responds with "a snail." Match each item from the left column to the appropriate answer in the right column.
 4. When finished, have the students place each simile into the positive group (happy face), the neutral group (plain face), or the negative group (sad face). Some of the similes may be placed in more than one group depending on their nuances.
- Answers** 1c, 2k, 3v, 4r, 5q, 6m, 7l, 8o, 9n, 10t, 11a, 12d, 13u, 14p, 15s, 16j, 17w, 18b, 19g, 20i, 21f, 22h, 23e.
- Variations**
1. Do this as a competitive activity between teams of 3, 4, or 5. All students only look at the left side of the Worksheet. The teacher reads off the phrases from the right side and teams compete to be the first with the correct answers.
 2. When finished, have students turn their papers face down and quiz them.
 3. Have groups of students put four or five of the similes into sentences; this is a good way to check for understanding.



Similes

1. ...as **slow** as *a snail* _____
 2. ...as **sly** as _____
 3. ...as **proud** as _____
 4. ...as **quiet** as _____
 5. ...as **hungry** as _____
 6. ...as **playful** as _____
 7. ...as **big** as _____
 8. ...as **hairy** as _____
 9. ...as **gentle** as _____
 10. ...as **stubborn** as _____
 11. ...as **eager** as _____
 12. ...as **fat** as _____
 13. ...as **silly** as _____
 14. ...as **slippery** as _____
 15. ...as **busy** as _____
 16. ...as **blind** as _____
 17. ...as **wise** as _____
 18. ...as **free** as _____
 19. ...as **brave** as _____
 20. ...as **sick** as _____
 21. ...as **strong** as _____
 22. ...as **happy** as _____
 23. ...as **drunk** as _____
- a. a beaver
 - b. a bird
 - c. a snail
 - d. a pig
 - e. a skunk
 - f. an ox
 - g. a lion
 - h. a lark
 - i. a dog
 - j. a bat
 - k. a fox
 - l. a whale
 - m. a kitten
 - n. a lamb
 - o. an ape
 - p. an eel
 - q. a wolf
 - r. a mouse
 - s. a bee
 - t. a mule
 - u. a goose
 - v. a peacock
 - w. an owl

-  Positive image _____
-  Neutral image _____
-  Negative image _____

TWO-PART PHRASE GAME

Materials: one copy of the board and a dice per group

Ss work in groups of three. Give each group a board, enlarged to A3 size if possible, a dice and a counter each. The Ss all place their counters on the 'Start' square. The first student rolls the dice and moves the number of places shown. They have to respond to the prompt in the square they land on using one of the two-part phrases listed on the board, e.g. *Why did you move to the countryside?* could be met with the response *Because I wanted peace and quiet* or *Because I was sick and tired of living in a noisy city*. If the student gives an appropriate response, they can stay in that square. If not, they have to go back to where they were before. The other Ss decide whether the response is possible or not, referring to the teacher if there are disputes. If two students land on the same square, they can't give exactly the same response – the second student has to find something different to say with a two-part phrase. The first student to reach the 'Finish' square is the winner.

START

1 Why did you move to the countryside?

2 So, it wasn't a luxury hotel?

3 Doesn't the new boss talk a lot!

4 Which football team do you support?

5 How often do you buy a lottery ticket?

6 Do you prefer living in New York or do you like London life more?

7 Wow! You've been married for twenty years!

8 Are you getting on better with Lucy now?

9 What do you miss about living alone?

10 How are your noisy neighbours?

11 Do you sometimes go to the theatre?

12 Did you make that table yourself?

13 How's Jan's guitar playing? She says she practises a lot.

14 Is it better to be spontaneous or to think carefully first?

• peace and quiet

• now and then

• leaps and bounds

• sick and tired

• pros and cons

• through and through

• on and on

• ups and downs

• rough and ready

• give and take

15 Did you reach an agreement?

16 Are you getting on well with your partner?

17 The train was an hour again!

18 Can you concentrate when there's lots of noise?

19 So, the lecture was longer than you expected?

20 Is Anton recovering well after the operation?

21 Which music do you like?

25 How are things with your family?

24 There's both a good and a bad side to cycling.

23 Your boss keeps making you work late.

22 You don't see your brother much, do you?

26 Can you be selfish and still have a successful relationship?

27 Your English seems much better than when I last saw you.

28 Was it a long journey?

29 How would you describe Sara's new boyfriend?

30 Are you Australian?

FINISH