

Similes

A simile is a comparison that uses the words “like” or “as”. A simile compares two things that are very different, but alike in one important way. Similes are commonly used in writing, especially in poetry. They make writing more interesting and entertaining.

Example: She walks in beauty, like the night.

In this example, Lord Byron is comparing a lady’s beauty to the beauty of night—as he continues, he mentions starry skies. On the surface, there may seem to be nothing that a lady and night have in common, which makes the simile that much more interesting.

Below, see if you can write some similes. Pick two objects or ideas that are similar in only one way.

_____ was _____ as _____ .

_____ was like a _____ .

_____ is _____ as _____ .

_____ is like a _____ .

_____ were _____ as _____ .

_____ could be _____ as _____ .

_____ will be like a _____ .

Metaphors

A metaphor is a comparison between two different objects or ideas. There is an object or idea that is the focus of the metaphor, and an object or idea whose qualities are borrowed and applied to the first object or idea. They do not use “like” or “as” but compare subjects directly.

Example: Life's but a walking shadow.

In this example, Shakespeare compares “life” and a “walking shadow”. In Shakespeare's day, a walking shadow was the understudy in a play. If you live your life without taking any action, you are a walking shadow.

Below, see if you can write some metaphors. Pick one object or idea to be the focus of the other one.

_____ was a _____ .

_____ were _____ .

_____ is a _____ .

_____ was a _____ .

_____ were _____ .

_____ is a _____ .

_____ was a _____ .