

Writing Basics → Using Figurative Language

Level: Middle School

Figurative language plays with words in order to enhance their meaning. **Similes** and **metaphors** are comparative. They compare two unlike things to give you a rich mental picture. Similes use “like” or “as” to make a direct comparison. Metaphors make an indirect comparison and therefore do not use “like” or “as.”

Build your own similes and metaphors by brainstorming. Each exercise notes a quality. Brainstorm a list of nouns that could be linked with that quality. Choose two that are quite different and build a simile or a metaphor. The first one is done for you.

1. hard

rock	muscles	work	ground	stale toast	fall	steel plate
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Simile → The ground was as hard as a steel plate.

Metaphor → _____

2. wet

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Simile → _____

Metaphor → _____

3. boring

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Simile → _____

Metaphor → _____

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4. empty

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Simile → _____

Metaphor → _____

5. happy

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Simile → _____

Metaphor → _____

6. rich

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Simile → _____

Metaphor → _____