

# Figurative Language: Similes, Metaphors, and Idioms

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

A **SIMILE** compares two things using **like** or **as** (as fast as a cheetah). A **METAPHOR** says one thing **IS** another (her smile is sunshine). An **IDIOM** is a saying with a meaning you can't get from the words alone (it's raining cats and dogs).

## PRACTICE

Pick or write the **BEST** answer.

- Which sentence is a **SIMILE**?
  - The clouds were soft pillows.
  - Her hair shone like gold in the sun.
  - Time flew during recess.
  - I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
- Which sentence is a **METAPHOR**?
  - She is as quiet as a mouse.
  - He is a shining star on the soccer field.
  - It is raining cats and dogs.
  - Hold your horses!
- Which is an **IDIOM**?
  - He runs like the wind.
  - Her room is a zoo.
  - Break a leg!
  - She is as brave as a lion.
- The simile *as cold as ice* means the thing is —
  - a little chilly
  - very cold
  - a bit warm
  - very hot



5. The metaphor *her voice was music* means her voice —
- A. was made of musical notes
  - B. sounded beautiful and pleasing
  - C. was very quiet
  - D. was loud and harsh
6. Which is the meaning of the idiom “*piece of cake*”?
- A. a slice of dessert
  - B. something very easy
  - C. a hard task
  - D. a sweet snack
7. Which sentence uses figurative language?
- A. The dog barked loudly.
  - B. The classroom was a sea of waving hands.
  - C. We had pizza for lunch.
  - D. It rained yesterday.
8. Write a SIMILE about a fast car. (Use the word like or as.)
- Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Write a METAPHOR about a happy day.
- Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
10. The idiom “*hit the books*” means —
- A. to throw books at the wall
  - B. to start reading or studying hard
  - C. to clean up the books
  - D. to break a book



## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8
- 9
- 10  A  B  C  D

### Explanations

1. B	Simile uses LIKE or AS. A is a metaphor; C is an idiom; D is an exaggeration / idiom.
2. B	Metaphor says one thing IS another. A is a simile; C and D are idioms.
3. C	“Break a leg” = good luck (idiom). A is a simile; B is a metaphor; D is a simile.
4. B	Comparing to ice = very cold. The others contradict the simile.
5. B	Metaphor compares qualities — pleasant sound. The others miss the meaning.
6. B	Idiom for easy. A is the literal trap; C is the opposite; D is also literal.
7. B	Metaphor (sea of hands). The others are literal.
8.	<b>Answer:</b> Example: The car was as fast as a rocket. OR The car shot down the road like an arrow. Any sentence comparing the car to something fast using like or as.
9.	<b>Answer:</b> Example: That day was a bright sunbeam in my week. Any sentence that says the day IS something positive (no like/as).
10. B	Idiom = study. The literal interpretations are not what the phrase means.



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