Similes and Metaphors

Can you tell the difference between a simile and a metaphor? An easy way to remember how to tell the difference is to think of the word “similar” when you think of similes. Similes use the word *like* or *as* to describe things because they are saying that the subject is *like* or *as* something. In other words, the subject is *similar* to something else. Metaphors say the subject *is* something else.

For example: Jill is *like* a diamond in the rough. (Simile)
   Jill *is* a jewel. (Metaphor)

In the sentences below, write the word “simile” or “metaphor” after the sentence. Circle the word that lets you know if it is a simile or a metaphor.

- That dot is as big as a horse!
- Jenny is as quiet as a mouse.
- That man is over the hill.
- Steve turned as white as a ghost when his father caught him!
- That car is a boat!
- Her singing sounds like a cat dying.
- His shoes are skis!
- It’s as hot as an oven in here.
- My room is a hazardous zone!
- She is as sharp as a tack.

See if you can create a simile and a metaphor of your own:
Similes Worksheet

A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared using the words *like* or *as*. Complete each of the similes below.

The little girl is as light as a ____________________________

Jenny was so pretty, she was like a ____________________________

The house was so small it looked like a ____________________________

If my rabbit keeps eating so much he is going to be as big as a ____________________________

When my mom saw how messy my room was, she turned as white as a ____________________________

That pool is as small as a ____________________________

That teacher is as nice as an ____________________________

The barn is as red as an ____________________________

She’s as smart as a ____________________________

This room is as cold as a ____________________________

Think of some common phrases you hear. Can you list three similes of your own? Have fun with them and make some up!

1. ____________________________

2. ____________________________

3. ____________________________
Metaphors Worksheet

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared without the use of like or as. A metaphor takes the form of a direct statement (or direct comparison). For example: Dad is a bear today. Metaphors are often defined by their use of the word is, as compared to similes which use the words like or as. Metaphors must share common ground. In the example, “Dad is a bear today,” the common ground is grouchiness. Review the metaphors below. After each metaphor, write the common ground that the two objects share.

Jerry has a green thumb to make his plants grow well. ______________________________

Mom is a bear in the mornings. ____________________________________________

He is such an angel! ______________________________________________________

Mrs. Java is a dragon with her coffee breath! _________________________________

Can you come up with metaphors of your own and explain the meaning of them? Write your metaphors in the spaces below:

1. ________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________