

3E

Word Skills

Metaphors and similes

I can use metaphors and similes to make comparisons.

1 Complete the metaphors with the words below.

broken heart bumpy ride disaster area mirror
plain sailing prison

- Once we'd got through the rush hour traffic, it was all _____.
- When his wife passed away, my elderly neighbour died of a _____.
- Her house was a _____ until she had fully recovered from the accident and could walk again.
- The surface of the water is a _____ in which the palace and its surroundings are reflected.
- No wonder you can't find anything in your room – it's a _____.
- He had a _____ through his first year at university because he split up from his girlfriend.

2 Complete the sentences with similes made from the words and pictures below.

blind cry eat fit light quiet



- I was _____ when I came in so as not to wake anybody up.
- These shoes are extremely comfortable. They _____.
- My niece is _____, so I don't mind carrying her.
- Sad films really upset me. I always _____ at the end.
- I don't know why you're so slim – you _____.
- You need to get your eyes tested – you're _____.

3 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use similes. Write no more than six words and include the word in brackets.

- Last night I had a very good sleep. (like)
I _____ last night.
- My grandad is very hard of hearing. (post)
My grandad is _____.
- Your mum looks really angry. (face)
Your mum's got _____.
- That woman is always on the go. (busy)
That woman is _____.
- My twin brothers are very similar. (pod)
My twin brothers are _____.
- He seemed calm, despite his arrest. (cool)
He was _____ despite his arrest.

VOCAB BOOST!

Most metaphors, similes and idioms are listed in a dictionary under the first word in the phrase, e.g. **plain sailing**, (as) **cool as a cucumber**, **sleep like a log**. Expressions with very common words, such as **good** or **run**, are listed under the other important word, e.g. (as) **good as gold**, **run like the wind**.

4 Read the Vocab Boost! box and the dictionary extract. Then replace the words in bold with an idiom in the correct form.

at heart used to say what sb is really like even though they may seem to be sth different. *He's still a socialist at heart.* **break sb's heart** to make sb feel very unhappy. *She broke his heart when she called off the engagement.* **by heart** (if also off by heart) using only your memory. *I've dialled the number so many times I know it by heart.* **close to sb's heart** having a lot of importance and interest for sb from the (bottom of your) heart in a way that is sincere. *I beg you, from the bottom of my heart, to spare his life.* **give sb (fresh) heart** to make sb feel positive, especially when they thought that they had no chance of achieving sth. *Give your heart to sb to give your love to one person.* **have a heart** (informal) used to ask sb to be kind and/or reasonable.

From Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 9e, 2015.

- She thanked him **very sincerely** for all he'd done for her.

- Paul told Holly that he **loved only** Amelia.

- Women's rights is an issue that is **of great importance** to her.

- The warm soup **made the hikers feel more positive**.

- Be reasonable!** We don't need to get up at 6 a.m. on a Saturday!

- He told us to learn our lines **using our memories** before the next rehearsal.

- My sister's boyfriend **made her very unhappy** when he finished with her.

- She may seem quite sweet, but she's **really a radical**.
