

86 Similes

We form most similes with: **(as) + adjective + as + noun** and a smaller number with: **verb OR noun + like + noun**.
Similes with **as** emphasize the meaning of the adjective, so they are often easy to understand. They are more common in spoken English, and the first **as** is usually omitted.

(Main) noun	Simile	(Main) noun	Simile
 gold	<i>The children were as good as gold today. (= well behaved)</i>	 beetroot	<i>Sian went as red as a beetroot. (= very embarrassed)</i>
 feather	<i>I picked up the little girl – she was as light as a feather. (= very light)</i>	 bone	<i>The ground is as dry as a bone at the moment. (= very dry)</i>
 bat	<i>I'm afraid I'm blind as a bat. (used humorously)</i>	 cake	<i>The new model is selling like hot cakes. (= selling very quickly or in large numbers)</i>
 post	<i>My father is deaf as a post. (used humorously)</i>	 log	<i>I slept like a log last night. (= slept very well)</i>
 rake	<i>My sister's as thin as a rake. (= very thin)</i>	 dream	<i>The plan worked like a dream. (= was very successful)</i>
 sheet	<i>Sammy went as white as a sheet. (= white with fear or from illness)</i>	 sieve	<i>Sometimes I've got a memory/mind like a sieve. (= a bad memory)</i>

1 Complete the similes.

- My poor uncle is deaf as a
- This computer game will sell like hot
- The sheets are dry as a after hanging in the hot sun.
- Surprisingly, the suitcase was light as a
- My father sleeps like a
- Honestly, she's got a mind like a
- He realized his mistake and went red as a
- The printer is working like a now.
- James is blind as a without his glasses.
- She heard someone downstairs and went white as a

2 Choose a suitable simile to describe these people and things.

- My grandfather can't hear a thing.
- My grandmother can't see a thing.
- My girlfriend needs to put on weight.
- The plan was very successful.
- She looked really ill.
- The children behaved very well.
- She was very embarrassed.
- He often forgets things.
- The little girl weighed almost nothing.
- Everyone is buying the new phone.

3 ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGE Do you have similes in your language. Can you find equivalent expressions for the similes above?

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