

**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** (sb is 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**.  
\_\_\_\_\_