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

1 Complete the similes.

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

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

1 My grandfather can't hear a thing. _____
2 My grandmother can't see a thing. _____
3 My girlfriend needs to put on weight. _____
4 The plan was very successful. _____
5 She looked really ill. _____
6 The children behaved very well. _____
7 She was very embarrassed. _____
8 He often forgets things. _____
9 The little girl weighed almost nothing. _____
10 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?**

_____
_____
_____

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS