

Simile!

A way to compare two things by using the words “like” or “as”

"Using a simile is like painting a picture with words."

Their food was tough as old boots.

Imagine chowing down on an old shoe?!

This simile suggests that the food was leathery, dry and impossible to chew.

No thank you!

Be careful you don't get similes mixed up with metaphors.

Metaphors compare two things by saying one is the other.

Similes always use “like” or “as”.

In her poem “George Square” Jackie Kay uses a simile to describe a protest:

“the banners waved at each other like old friends”

As well as suggesting how the banners move and wave together, this simile hints that the atmosphere at the protest was familiar, united and sociable.

Similes don't always describe something clear, they can be much more complex.

In the novel *The Cone Gatherers*, Robin Jenkins compares the character Duror to a tree:

“He was like a tree still straight, still showing green leaves; but underground death was creeping along the roots”

Here, Duror is compared to a tree that seems healthy, but is dying on the inside.

This powerful simile tells us that although Duror may appear healthy and well on the outside

Inside, he is being slowly consumed by his hatred.

Using similes is a fun and effective way to explain something complex without using a long list of adjectives.

You can get as creative AS you LIKE!