Similes

Intermediate English, Week 11, Winter 2021

What is a simile?

- A simile is a way to compare two things using like or as
- They compare a quality that two different things have in common
- Similes are used often in literature, poetry, and songs
- A simile is different from a comparative because it can compare things that are very different
 - Comparative The blue car is faster than the red car. (two cars)
 - Simile The blue car is as fast as a cheetah. (compares the car to an animal)
- Sometimes similes use an adjective, but not always

Similes with *like*

- Some similes use the word like to compare things
 - The fireworks were like beautiful flowers.
 - Her eyes glowed like two stars.
- You can use nouns, an adjective, a gerund, etc.
 - He is tall and strong, like a big tree.
 - Being in love is like hearing a beautiful song.
- Here, *like* is not a verb, it is a preposition. So, you need another verb in the sentence (often am/are/is)

Similes with as

- We can also use as to make similes
 - The rock was as big as a house.
 - Her hair is as black as night
- It is common to use the pattern as + adj./adv. + as
 - This sweater is as white as snow
 - He sees as well as an eagle.
- It is possible to make a simile with only one as, but it is not common

Common similes

- There are some similes that are very common in English
- You might see them in books and movies, or hear people use them in conversation
- Now, we'll look at six similes that are used often

"As flat as a pancake"



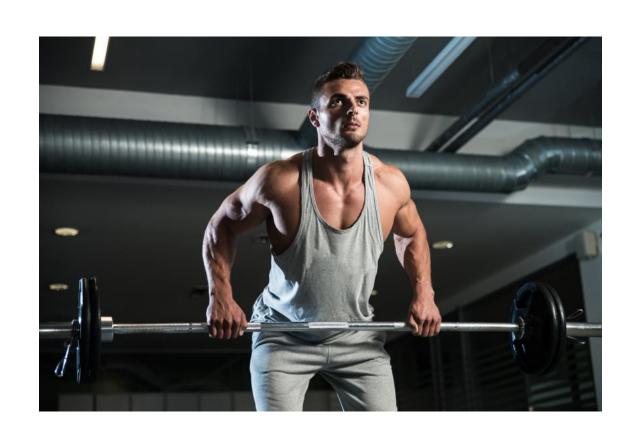


"Grow like a weed"





"As strong as an ox"





"Swim like a fish"





"As busy as a bee"





"Sparkle like diamonds"

