

# 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”*

