

# Figures of Speech

A Brief List of Similes, Metaphors, and Personification Just to Get You Started

Similes – phrases that use <b>like</b> or <b>as</b>	Metaphors – use as direct verbs, nouns, adjectives	
<p>bald as a billiard ball, cue ball, bowling ball...  bitter as dark chocolate, ....  bright as the sun, a 3-way bulb, fluorescent...  cold as ice, snow, a slushy...  cry like a baby  dry as a dishcloth, leather, sand, toast...  dumb as a post, ox, ...  easy as herding cats  fight like cats and dogs  fits like a glove, new retainers, ....  flashed like lightning, lights upon a cop car...  fresh as an Altoid mint  happy as a mosquito at a blood bank  howled like a wounded beast  like a bull in a china shop  like a bump on a log  like it's going out of style  meaner than a junkyard dog, union boss, ....  nutty as a fruitcake, ...  old as dirt, a VCR, ...  pleased, tickled, thrilled as punch  rough as sand paper, ...  sharp as a tack, a stick, a double-edged sword...  slept like a dog, baby, ...  slick, slim, thin as a 2011 MacBook Pro...  smart as a whip,...  stand out like a sore thumb  tough as leather, nails, ...  wet as...  work like a dog, mom before a vacation...  works like a charm, a ShamWow towel</p> <p><b>Most of these similes are old and overused.  Whenever you can, try to create a new, original  one of your own for an extra sticker!</b></p>	<p>an Einstein (smart person)  an erupting volcano (angry)  ants in your pants  ballerina in hiking boots (klutzy)  between a rock and a hard place (tough situation)  bloodhound (good at searching out things)  blow a fuse  bottomless pit  caged bird (prisoner)  clammed up  couch potato  crossroads of life (time of important decisions)  crutch (too dependent on something)  daggers (hurtful words, looks)  dead to the world  diamonds that sparkle in the night (eyes, teeth...)  fingers danced  flick of a switch  he is a shadow, shell, ghost of himself  in the driver's seat (in control)  in the pits (bad situation)  legs turned to rubber  lion on the battlefield  night is growing old  nightmare (a bad situation)  on top of the world  ping pong ball bouncing on the waves  a prison  put all your eggs, beans... in one basket  putty in someone's hands  spitballs of fire (angry)  a tomb (the library was ... of academic zombies)  up a creek  a veil (fog, clouds, confusion)  wet sponge (cowardly)  zombies</p>	
<p><b>Personification – giving human qualities or actions to something that is not human.</b></p> <p>The flowers <b>turned their faces</b> to the sun.  The couch <b>groaned</b> under his weight.  The wind <b>beat its fists</b> against my window.  My car <b>refused</b> to budge.  The dry earth <b>greedily drank</b> the water.  The sun <b>stared</b> at the ship for hours.  The fog <b>crept stealthily</b> down the street.  The mountains <b>guarded</b> the valley.</p>	<p><b>Metaphorical Verbs</b></p> <p>beat  blew  burned  cried  danced  drank  drowned (tears, homework)  floated  flooded  groaned  kill</p>	<p>melted  overflowed  purred  shredded  splashed  stormed  suffocated  towered  unraveled  wilt  the list is endless...</p>

Here are more lists than you can shake a stick at:

<http://ansible.co.uk/misc/striking.html> (this is my favorite list of rather unique similes)

<http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/figures-similes-list.htm> (common similes)

<http://www.myuniversalfacts.com/2006/12/list-of-similes-common-english-similes.html> (common similes)