

### **Similes**

All the idioms in these exercises are examples of **similes**. A simile is an expression that compares one thing with another thing, containing either the word *as* or the word *like*. You use similes to give emphasis to descriptions, or to make those descriptions more interesting or amusing.

A typical example of a simile is the expression as cold as ice, meaning very cold.

flash

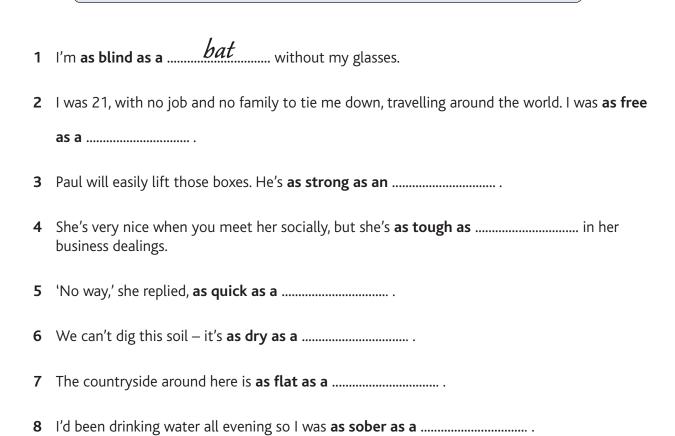
The similes in exercises 1–3 all contain the word as.

1 Complete the sentences with these nouns.

ОХ

bird

bat



judge

bone

pancake

nails

Complete the similes with these adjectives.

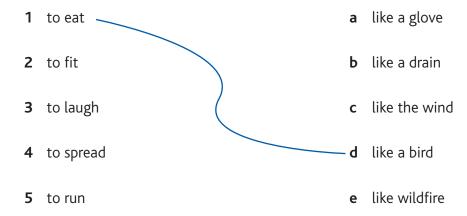
old cold light thin clear s
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- 1 as ...... stiff as a board
- **2** as ..... as a rake
- **3** as ...... as a bell
- 4 as ..... as the hills
- **5** as ..... as ice
- 6 as ..... as a feather
- 3 Complete the sentences with similes from exercise 2.
  - 1 Put some gloves on! Your hands are as \_\_\_\_\_\_ cold as ice \_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Celia doesn't need to lose weight she's as .....!

  - 4 Yes, I can hear you, as .......
  - **5** He's been around for sixty years or more he must be as ......by now.
  - 6 I can lift you up easily you're as .....!

The similes in exercises 4–6 all contain the word like.

4 Match the first half of each simile with the second half.



5 Complete the sentences that explain the meaning of the simile in **bold**.

1	Luca <b>ran like the wind</b> to meet her.
	Λ ,

He ran ..... very fast to meet her.

2 I'm really pleased with the dress. It fits like a glove.

It fits ......

**3** I'm not surprised Rosa is so thin. She **eats like a bird**.

She eats ......

4 The news **spread like wildfire** and soon everyone knew.

The news spread ......

5 Philip laughed like a drain when he heard the news.

He laughed ......

## **Similes**

6	Are these sentences	positive <b>✓</b>	or negative	X
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- 1 Nothing will grow in this ground. It's as dry as a bone. ........
- 2 She hadn't done any exercise in ages and she was as stiff as a board. ...........
- **3** Josie is good at athletics. She can run like the wind. .........
- 4 Viruses can spread like wildfire through contact with infected hands or surfaces. ..........
- **5** The jacket fits like a glove. .........
- 6 He's very big for his age. He's as strong as an ox. .........

## Similes – Answer key

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#### **Exercise 1**

- 1 bat
- 2 bird
- **3** ox
- 4 nails
- 5 flash
- 6 bone
- 7 pancake
- 8 judge

#### **Exercise 2**

- 1 stiff
- 2 thin
- 3 clear
- **4** old
- 5 cold
- 6 light

#### **Exercise 3**

- 1 cold as ice
- 2 thin as a rake
- 3 stiff as a board
- 4 clear as a bell
- 5 old as the hills
- 6 light as a feather

#### **Exercise 4**

- 1 d
- **2** a
- **3** b
- **4** e
- **5** c

#### **Exercise 5**

- 1 very fast
- 2 very well
- 3 very little
- 4 very quickly
- 5 very loudly

#### **Exercise 6**

- 1 X
- 2 X
- 3 🗸
- 4 X
- 5 🗸
- 6 🗸