Similes

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each simile with its meaning.

1 fit like a glove	____	a attract attention because it is very different
2 sleep like a log	____	b operate smoothly and exactly as planned
3 spread like wildfire	____	c be extremely comfortable and familiar
4 eat like a horse	____	d quarrel frequently and fiercely
5 work like clockwork	____	e eat a very large amount
6 fight like cat and dog	____	f become known or move very quickly
7 stand out like a sore thumb	____	g be exactly the right size or shape
8 feel like home	____	h sleep very deeply

2 Complete the fixed similes.

cat | **clockwork** | **glove** | **home** | **horse** | **log** | **sore** | **wildfire**

1 The jacket fits like a _____.

2 After the hike, she slept like a _____.

3 The rumour spread like _____.

4 My teenage brother eats like a _____.

5 The whole event ran like _____.

6 The neighbours fight like _____ and dog.

7 That bright sign stands out like a _____ thumb.

8 Their welcoming kitchen feels like _____.

3 Choose the most suitable comparison.

1 The software installation went perfectly: *like clockwork / like wildfire*.

2 The video became popular overnight: *spread like wildfire / fit like a glove*.

3 The new boots are exactly my size: *fit like a glove / sleep like a log*.

4 Against the grey buildings, the pink house *stands out like a sore thumb / feels like home*.

5 The twins argue all the time: *fight like cat and dog / eat like horses*.

6 I did not wake once: *slept like a log / worked like clockwork*.

7 The hosts made us comfortable: *it felt like home / it spread like wildfire*.

8 After football, the players *ate like horses / fitted like gloves*.

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4 Complete the festival report with words from the box.

cat and dog | clockwork | glove | home | horses | log | sore thumb | wildfire

News of the neighbourhood festival spread like **1** _____. Although the organisers sometimes fought like **2** _____, the final schedule worked like **3** _____. My costume fitted like a **4** _____, but one modern stall stood out like a **5** _____ among the traditional tents. Visitors ate like **6** _____. The friendly atmosphere felt like **7** _____, and after cleaning up, I slept like a **8** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

More than decoration

Fixed similes can communicate a whole situation in a few words. If a plan runs like clockwork, readers understand that every stage happens smoothly. However, the same simile may create a different effect in another context. A humorous comparison can make a personal story lively but may sound unsuitable in a serious report. Writers should also consider connotation: standing out like a sore thumb usually suggests an unwanted difference, while fitting like a glove is strongly positive.

1 What can fixed similes communicate efficiently? _____

2 What does running like clockwork imply? _____

3 Where might a humorous simile work well? _____

4 Where might it be unsuitable? _____

5 What kind of connotation does sore thumb have? _____

6 Which simile in the text is strongly positive? _____

6 Rewrite using the simile in capitals.

1 The operation went exactly as planned. **LIKE CLOCKWORK** ___

2 The story became known extremely quickly. **LIKE WILDFIRE** _

3 This suit is exactly the right size. **LIKE A GLOVE** _____

4 The red chair looks completely out of place. **SORE THUMB** __

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** account of an event that went very well or badly. Use fixed similes to describe people, actions and atmosphere.

[ ] Use at least six target similes. [ ] Match tone to context. [ ] Avoid contradictory comparisons.

Similes

ANSWER KEY

1 Fixed similes and meanings

1 **g** 2 **h** 3 **f** 4 **e** 5 **b** 6 **d** 7 **a** 8 **c**

2 Fixed similes

1 **glove** 2 **log** 3 **wildfire** 4 **horse** 5 **clockwork** 6 **cat** 7 **sore** 8 **home**

3 Suitable comparisons

1 **like clockwork** 2 **spread like wildfire** 3 **fit like a glove** 4 **stands out like a sore thumb**
5 **fight like cat and dog** 6 **slept like a log** 7 **felt like home** 8 **ate like horses**

4 Festival report

1 **wildfire** 2 **cat and dog** 3 **clockwork** 4 **glove** 5 **sore thumb** 6 **horses** 7 **home** 8 **log**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A whole situation. 2 Every stage happens smoothly. 3 In a personal story.
4 In a serious report. 5 Usually negative/unwanted. 6 **Fit like a glove**.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The operation went **like clockwork**. 2 The story spread **like wildfire**. 3 This suit fits **like a glove**. 4 The red chair stands out **like a sore thumb**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check accuracy, connotation and consistency of tone.