Similes

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

PRE-INTERMEDIATE | A2-B1

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each simile with its meaning.

1 as busy as a bee	____	a moving with very little speed
2 as quiet as a mouse	____	b needing food very badly
3 as light as a feather	____	c having great physical power
4 as cold as ice	____	d making almost no sound
5 as hungry as a wolf	____	e having almost no weight
6 as slow as a snail	____	f doing many things
7 as strong as an ox	____	g having the colour of fresh snow
8 as white as snow	____	h extremely cold

2 Complete the situations with comparison words.

bee | feather | ice | mouse | ox | snail | snow | wolf

1 The empty box was as light as a _____.

2 After the long walk, I was as hungry as a _____.

3 The frozen lake was as cold as _____.

4 The library was as quiet as a _____.

5 With three jobs to finish, Maya was as busy as a _____.

6 The old computer was as slow as a _____.

7 The weightlifter was as strong as an _____.

8 The mountain tops were as white as _____.

3 Choose the simile that makes sense.

1 The baby did not make a sound: *as quiet as a mouse / as busy as a bee*.

2 The suitcase was easy to lift: *as light as a feather / as strong as an ox*.

3 We had not eaten all day: *as hungry as a wolf / as cold as ice*.

4 The bus took an hour to travel two kilometres: *as slow as a snail / as white as snow*.

5 Her hands felt frozen: *as cold as ice / as quiet as a mouse*.

6 He carried both bags alone: *as strong as an ox / as light as a feather*.

7 Everyone had a task: *as busy as bees / as slow as snails*.

8 The clean sheet had no marks: *as white as snow / as hungry as a wolf*.

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4 Complete the school-day description with words from the box.

bee | feather | ice | mouse | ox | snail | snow | wolf

On Monday, our classroom was as cold as **1** _____. Leo arrived as hungry as a **2** _____, but his little sister was as quiet as a **3** _____. During the project, everyone became as busy as a **4** _____. The new sports bag was as light as a **5** _____, while our captain was as strong as an **6** _____. The printer was as slow as a **7** _____, but at last it produced a page as white as **8** _____.

5 Read the text. Write T (true) or F (false).

Pictures made with words

A simile compares two different things by using like or as. If we say a child is as quiet as a mouse, we do not mean the child is really a mouse. We compare one shared quality: both are quiet. Similes can make descriptions clearer and more memorable. Fixed similes are easy to recognise, but using too many can make a text sound repetitive. A good simile should fit the situation.

1 A simile compares different things. T / F

2 Similes use only the word as. T / F

3 A quiet child is literally a mouse. T / F

4 A comparison focuses on a shared quality. T / F

5 Similes can make descriptions memorable. T / F

6 Every situation needs many similes. T / F

6 Rewrite using the simile in capitals.

1 The room was completely silent. **QUIET AS A MOUSE** _____

2 This parcel weighs almost nothing. **LIGHT AS A FEATHER** __

3 I am extremely hungry. **HUNGRY AS A WOLF** _____

4 The queue is moving very slowly. **SLOW AS A SNAIL** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **70-90 word** description of a person, animal or memorable day. Use similes to create clear pictures.

[ ] Use at least five similes. [ ] Use like or as correctly. [ ] Make every comparison logical.

Similes

ANSWER KEY

1 Similes and meanings

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

2 Comparison words

1 **feather** 2 **wolf** 3 **ice** 4 **mouse** 5 **bee** 6 **snail** 7 **ox** 8 **snow**

3 Logical similes

1 **as quiet as a mouse** 2 **as light as a feather** 3 **as hungry as a wolf** 4 **as slow as a snail**
5 **as cold as ice** 6 **as strong as an ox** 7 **as busy as bees** 8 **as white as snow**

4 School-day description

1 **ice** 2 **wolf** 3 **mouse** 4 **bee** 5 **feather** 6 **ox** 7 **snail** 8 **snow**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 **T** 2 **F** 3 **F** 4 **T** 5 **T** 6 **F**

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The room was **as quiet as a mouse**. 2 This parcel is **as light as a feather**. 3 I am **as hungry as a wolf**. 4 The queue is moving **as slowly as a snail**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check structure, shared qualities and logical comparisons.