

**Lesson 1: Similes****Learning Outcome**

Identify and describe similes

**Duration**

Approximately 50 minutes

**Necessary Materials***Provided:* Direct Teaching Passage, Direct Teaching Passage Answer Key, Independent Practice Worksheet*Not Provided:* *If You Hopped Like a Frog* by David M. Schwartz, chart paper, markers**Lesson Plan**

- DIRECT TEACHING**

**I** will explain the meaning of similes (figurative language that compares two unlike objects by using the words “like,” “than,” or “as”). Authors use similes to compare two things in an interesting way that puts a clearer image in the reader’s head. I will give examples of similes and identify the objects being compared and their meaning. Examples: “The snow is like a blanket.” “The bread is as hard as nails.” “The river is as dry as a bone.” I will read the passage “The Surprise Party” (included in Books and Passages) aloud. I will identify the similes in the passage and explain their meaning. For example, in the first sentence the author compares Grace’s mouth to a bus. She uses the word “as” to compare them. We know Grace’s mouth isn’t really as big as a bus because that is impossible. Buses are too big. The author must be trying to tell us that Grace has a big mouth, which is something people say when someone talks too much.

- THINK CHECK**

Ask: How did I identify a simile in the story and how did I know the real meaning? Students should respond that you used words such as “like” and “as” to help you find a sentence that compares two things. Then you thought about the comparison and what meaning the author was trying to give the reader.

- GUIDED PRACTICE**

**WE** will read *If You Hopped Like a Frog* by David M. Schwartz. We will chart the similes in the book, as well as what the similes compare and their meaning.

- INDEPENDENT PRACTICE**

**YOU** will identify similes in the passage, what they compare and their meaning. (Student Independent Practice is provided below in Teacher and Student Materials.)

**Build Student Vocabulary spot**

Tier 2 Word: <b>spot</b>	
Contextualize the word as it is used in the story	If you had eagle eyes, you could <b>spot</b> a running rabbit from high in the clouds!
Explain the meaning student-friendly definition)	To <b>spot</b> means to notice or see something small or hidden. If a rabbit could be <b>spotted</b> , it means that the rabbit could be noticed from far away.
Students repeat the word	Say the word <b>spot</b> with me: <b>spot</b> .
Teacher gives examples of	When I was looking for grapes in the grocery store, I <b>spotted</b> them on the top shelf. My dog always <b>spots</b> the cats on the

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the word in other contexts	street before I see them. When I see the children on the playground, I can always <b>spot</b> my brother, because he wears a red hat. I couldn't find my gloves until I <b>spotted</b> them on the floor next to the door.
Students provide examples	Tell me about something you <b>spotted</b> . Why was it hard to see? Start by saying, "Once I <b>spotted</b> _____."
Students repeat the word again.	What word are we talking about? <b>spot</b>
Additional Vocabulary Words	craned, devour

**Build Student Background Knowledge**

After reading "The Surprise Party," explain to students that hornets are an insect that is part of the wasp family. Hornets are predators feeding on other bugs, such as bees and flies. Hornets do not harm humans unless provoked, but their sting can be poisonous to if you are allergic to their venom. Use this information to help your class understand the phrase "mad as a hornet."

Underlined phrases are examples of similes.

## The Surprise Party

My cousin Grace has a mouth as big as a bus. She can never keep a secret. One day I told Grace about a surprise birthday party my mom was throwing for her mom. Grace's mom (my aunt) is as nutty as a fruit cake but sweeter than apple pie. My mom decided to throw her a party at the local zoo. Grace's mom loves animals. The animals are like her friends. Of course Grace told her mom about the party. Her mom was pleased as punch, but my mom was mad as a hornet.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the passage. Identify three examples of similes. Underline the example and explain their meaning below.

### Similes

Sometimes I think that I'm as blind as a bat. Yesterday my teacher asked us to find examples of similes. I'm usually smart as a whip but I couldn't find anything. My mind was like a blank page. My friend Brian suggested I look in the newspaper. On the front page was the headline "Flag Flies High as a Kite." There are no similes there. Next I tried looking in my favorite book. It is a book about baseball. The main character in the book speeds around the bases like a racecar. But there are no similes there either. Finally, Brian says "you're as slow as a snail." And I say, "Aha! There is a simile!"

1.) Compares \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2.) Compares \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3.) Compares \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge - Can you find *all* the similes? (Hint: There are six.)

## **The Surprise Party**

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