

Simile or Metaphor?

(Beginner)

Read each line below. Underline the comparative phrase, and tell whether this comparison is a simile or a metaphor.

- The day was as hot as the sun.
- He could swim like a fish.
- I felt like a fish out of water.
- Her smile was a ray of sunshine.
- He couldn't stand because his legs were rubber.
- I was standing perfectly still, like a statue.
- You're such a chicken.
- Her sneeze was as loud as a train whistle.
- The cafeteria stew was as tasteless as mud.
- By tomorrow, our house will be as clean as a whistle.
- The stars were diamonds in the sky.
- Life is a roller coaster of emotions.
- My sister likes to go to bed early, but I'm a night owl.

(High Intermediate/Advanced)

Read each poem excerpt. Underline the comparative phrase, and tell whether this comparison is a simile or a metaphor.

The Base Stealer (by Robert Francis)

Poised between going on and back, pulled
Both ways taut like a tightrope-walker...

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud (by William Wordsworth)

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills...

Hope is the Thing with Feathers (by Emily Dickinson)

"Hope" is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without the words—
And never stops—at all...

Sea-Fever (by John Masefield)

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way, where the wind's like a whetted knife...