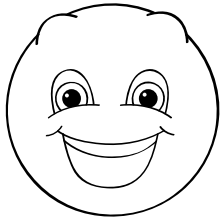

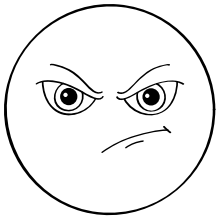
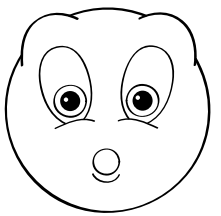


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## A Little Thesaurus of Idioms

What is the difference between reading something boring and something interesting? In many cases, it is the words that the writer chooses to describe something or tell the story. Writers sometimes use a special book to help them pick just the right words for what they want to say. This book is called a *thesaurus*. A thesaurus lists words related to one another in meaning. For example, under the word *fast*, you might find *quick*, *speedy*, and *swift*. These words are fine, but you could also describe *fast* with an idiom, such as *in a flash*, *as quick as a wink*, or *in a jiffy*. Below are some words you probably use often in your speaking and writing. Next to each one are some idioms you could choose to use instead to make your sentences more interesting.

Ho-Hum Word	Idioms You Might Use Instead	
 <p><b>happy</b></p>	walking on air in good spirits flying high	on cloud nine on top of the world as happy as a clam
 <p><b>sad</b></p>	down in the dumps feeling blue moping around	have the blues brokenhearted in the doldrums
 <p><b>mad</b></p>	seeing red burned up in a huff	steaming fit to be tied as mad as a hornet
 <p><b>surprised</b></p>	bowled over caught off guard hit me like a ton of bricks	taken aback stunned

# Expressions That Are Similes

This unit highlights idioms that are similes. Below are two lists of similes. The first, *Ten to Teach*, presents the 10 similes introduced and taught in this unit. The second, *More to Mention*, offers additional similes that you may want to mention or use to create additional activities.

## Ten to Teach

1. like two peas in a pod
2. as different as night and day
3. like a bump on a log
4. as quiet as a mouse
5. like a fish out of water
6. as easy as pie
7. as stiff as a board
8. feel like two cents
9. fit like a glove
10. like pulling teeth

## More to Mention

- ▶ eats like a horse/pig
- ▶ as cold as ice
- ▶ as hungry as a bear
- ▶ like music to one's ears
- ▶ as sweet as honey
- ▶ sings like a bird
- ▶ as green as grass
- ▶ as soft as silk
- ▶ fight like cats and dogs
- ▶ like water off a duck's back

## Using This Unit

Begin by reading to students the basic *Ten to Teach* idioms. First, ask students if they have ever heard or used any of these expressions, and if so, how and where. Next, tell the students that you are going to read the expressions again, and this time they are to listen for anything they have in common. Accept all answers, and then point out that all the expressions compare one thing to another. Teach or review the definition of a *simile*—a comparison using *like* or *as*. If you like, read the list a third time and let students identify what the comparison is in each.

On the next page is a story that includes the *Ten to Teach* similes. Note that the story is not intended to be an example of good writing; it would not be natural to use 10 similes in such a short piece. The purpose of the story is simply to use all the expressions in context. The story is at approximately a 2.8 reading level. Use this information to read it aloud to students, have them read it, or both. This reproducible page includes the story and questions for students to answer related to the similes used.

The final five pages of the unit introduce the basic *Ten to Teach* similes individually, two to a page. These can be reproduced as is, or cut apart into separate cards. Note: Instead of identifying which example uses the phrase as an idiom, as in previous units in this book, now students are asked questions that lead them to decide if a phrase in a selection is used as a simile or not.

**Optional:** Use one of the ideas or activities in the introductory section of this book as an extension or follow-up to the unit.

# Expressions That Are Similes (cont.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a story containing 10 similes. Can you tell what they are comparing?

My brother and I are twins. Everyone says we are **like two peas in a pod**, but I think we are **as different as night and day**. I like to go out and do things. Paul just sits **like a bump on a log** in front of the TV, **as quiet as a mouse**.

The other day, I got him to come outside and play kickball with us. I wanted him to **fit like a glove** on our team, but he was **like a fish out of water**. The ball is pretty big, so kicking it is **as easy as pie**. When Paul's turn came, he walked up **as stiff as a board** and actually missed the ball completely! I felt **like two cents** when our team lost. But, the guys let it roll off them **like water off a duck's back**.

Later, at home, I told my mom that getting Paul to play was **like pulling teeth**! She said that he was just shy and that I should keep inviting him to play. In time, he would come around and might even be our best player. I guess she could be right. What do you think?

Read or listen to the story again. Then answer these questions about the similes. To help you find them, the similes are in **dark print** in the text.

1. Do you think *water rolls off a duck's back* easily? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What word in the expression *felt like two cents* tells you that it is a simile?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Underline the thing in the story that is being compared in each simile:

a. *like pulling teeth*: getting Paul to play    talking to Mom

b. *as stiff as a board*: Paul    how Paul walked

c. *as easy as pie*: kicking    getting Paul to play

4. Think of someone you know who you think is like you in some way and different in another way. Fill in the person's name and then finish this simile about the person.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ and I are *like two peas in a pod* because

\_\_\_\_\_

# Expressions That Are Similes (cont.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Simile** ► **like two peas in a pod**

**Meaning** ► **alike in looks or behavior; identical; very close**

**How It Is Used** ► Maria had a cousin her age, but they had never met until they were eight years old. When they saw each other for the first time, they were amazed. They looked **like two peas in a pod**.

**Recognizing Similes** ► Remember: A simile is a comparison using *like* or *as*.

Read the selection. Answer the questions below.

Trying to get my little brother to eat vegetables is impossible. Mom says he'd probably starve before he would eat *two peas in a pod*.

- ❶ Is something being compared to something else?  yes  no
- ❷ Is the word *like* or *as* used to compare?  yes  no
- ❸ Are the words *two peas in a pod* part of a simile in this selection?  yes  no

**Simile** ► **as different as night and day**

**Meaning** ► **opposite**

**How It Is Used** ► My uncles are brothers, but you would never know it. One is very tall and has light hair and blue eyes. The other is short and has black hair and brown eyes. They look as different **as night and day**.

**Recognizing Similes** ► Remember: A simile is a comparison using *like* or *as*.

Read the selection. Answer the questions below.

Pepperoni! Mushroom! Onion! No onion! Ordering a pizza at our house is so hard because our tastes are *as different as night and day*.

- ❶ Is something being compared to something else?  yes  no
- ❷ Is the word *like* or *as* used to compare?  yes  no
- ❸ Are the words *different as night and day* part of a simile in this selection?  yes  no

# Expressions That Are Similes (cont.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Simile** ► **like a bump on a log**

**Meaning** ► **unmoving; inactive; without response**

**How It Is Used** ► I don't like it when I get sick. I can't do anything except sit in bed. I'd rather go to school than just sit there **like a bump on a log**.

**Recognizing Similes** ► Remember: A simile is a comparison using *like* or *as*.

Read the selection. Answer the questions below.

Tyler was spending all his free time on the computer playing games. Yesterday his mom came in and said, "Tyler, how can you just sit in front of that screen *like a bump on a log*? Why don't you go out and get some fresh air?"

- ❶ Is something being compared to something else?  yes  no
- ❷ Is the word *like* or *as* used to compare?  yes  no
- ❸ Are the words *bump on a log* part of a simile in this selection?  yes  no

**Simile** ► **as quiet as a mouse**

**Meaning** ► **very quiet; without making noise**

**How It Is Used** ► We saw something move in the darkness across the campsite. My sister became **as quiet as a mouse**. I turned the flashlight on and saw a man coming toward us. "Are you kids OK?" the camp counselor asked. "I was just coming to check on everyone."

**Recognizing Similes** ► Remember: A simile is a comparison using *like* or *as*.

Read the selection. Answer the questions below.

We opened the door, hoping it would leave. We heard scratching, and then it became *quiet as a mouse* scrambled passed us and out the door.

- ❶ Is something being compared to something else?  yes  no
- ❷ Is the word *like* or *as* used to compare?  yes  no
- ❸ Are the words *quiet as a mouse* part of a simile in this example?  yes  no