

Metaphor & Simile

Metaphor and simile are ways of saying what something is by saying what it is like. You use something else to say something.

For example instead of saying 'He was 18 stone', we say 'He was like an elephant'.

Most Indigenous people really like metaphors and similes.

(**Note:** metaphor and simile are pretty much the same.)

Metaphor says:

*Something **IS** something else.*

'He was an elephant.'

Simile says:

*Something **IS LIKE** something else.*

'He was like an elephant.'

There is not really much difference.)

Metaphor and simile are good ways of saying things because they make things clear to the listener.

For example, I could say straight up:

OK you students, you are in fourth year, the last year of your course, so you must work hard to get finished.

But I can also talk in metaphor and say:

OK you guys we are now in the last quarter. I know you are tired but this is where the game is won or lost. You must really put in and keep going hard till the final whistle.

This second way is better. It is more interesting. It is less bossy. It makes a new picture of the situation.

YOUR TURN

Read this poem by a Greek poet from Melbourne. He calls himself 'Pi O':

I want to

I want to:

sound like a movie
smell like a coffee
taste like a honey
breathe like a tree
talk like a tap
argue like a book
work like a saw
feel like a drink
walk like a fly
sing like a poster
climb like a graph
hear like a cave
stretch like a river
rest like a stone
stand like a koori
smile like a tick
love like a snail
look like a spoke
dream like a canvas
brag like a wheel, and
end like a comma.

(from: Lynn Boughton and Louise Craig (eds.).

Going Down Swinging 15. Clifton Hill, Vict.: Going Down Swinging Inc.)

We will use PiO's poem as a model to make our own poems so that we can practice inventing metaphors and similes.

Task 1. Make up a new simile for the items on this list

<i>Pio's SIMILE</i>	<i>YOUR SIMILE</i>
I WANT TO	
sound like a movie	sound like a
smell like a coffee	smell like
taste like a honey	taste like
breathe like a tree	breathe like
talk like a tap	talk like
argue like a book	argue like
work like a saw	work like
feel like a drink	feel like
walk like a fly	walk like
sing like a poster	sing like
climb like a graph	climb like
hear like a cave	hear like
stretch like a river	stretch like
rest like a stone	rest like

stand like a koori	stand like
smile like a tick	smile like
love like a snail	love like
look like a spoke	look like
dream like a canvas	dream like
brag like a wheel, and	brag like
end like a comma.	end like

Task 2: If studying is like playing football, what equals what?

FOOTY	<i>STUDY</i>
training for the team =	<i>practicing your skills</i>
first quarter =	
a ball up =	
half time =	
penalty =	
umpire =	
goal umpire =	
boundary umpire =	
tribunal =	
final whistle =	
supporters =	

TASK 3: If where you are studying or working is like a circus, what equals what?

CIRCUS	????
<i>the lions =</i>	
<i>the elephants=</i>	
<i>the trapeze artists =</i>	
<i>the clowns =</i>	
<i>the ticket collectors =</i>	
<i>the ice cream sellers =</i>	
<i>the ring master =</i>	
<i>the lion tamers =</i>	
<i>the midgets =</i>	
<i>the girls on horseback =</i>	
<i>the Big Top =</i>	
<i>the crowd =</i>	
<i>the jugglers =</i>	
<i>the safety net =</i>	
<i>the high diver =</i>	
<i>the human cannon ball =</i>	
<i>the knife thrower =</i>	
<i>the knife target =</i>	
<i>the band =</i>	

Task 5: Add a 'punch line' to these similes

A punch line is where you pull out the reason why you are saying something is like something else.

Here is an example

Life is like a dangerous river.	<i>It has hidden dangers.</i>
Life is like the seasons of the year	
A child is like a puppy	
School is like a prison	
Reading is like eating	
Love is like a movie	
TV is like a drug	
Money is like a god	
Studying is like travelling	
Life is like a card game	
Life is (like) a battle	
Love is (like) a gamble	
Life is (like) a box of chocolates	
Studying is (like) a lucky dip	
Life is like it says in the songs	
Life is (like) being in a boat	

You have to make up some metaphors to describe public values

This can be tricky because public values are very abstract. But just because they are very abstract, they need metaphors to bring them down to earth for ordinary people.

One of your important jobs as a public speaker is to bring these abstract things down to earth so ordinary people can understand them.

What you have to do is think of something that everyone knows like eating, sport, family, animals, and so on. And use these as metaphors for the public values

Make up a metaphor to describe each of these public values so that ordinary Aboriginal or Torres Strait people can understand what they are and how important they are.

You can change the wording a bit to fit what you want to say.

eg. **Human Rights are like** *medicine. When things are wrong you can use them to put things back right again.*

Equality is like ...

Self-Determination is like ...

Citizenship is like ...

Identity is like ...

Compensation is like ...

Culture is like ...

Spiritual Traditions are like ...

Language is like ...

Education is like ...

Media is like ...

Employment is like ...

Traditional Law is like ...

Economic & Social Development is like ...

Health is like ...

Environment is like ...

Cultural & Intellectual Property is like ...

Resource Development is like ...

Self-government is like ...

Indigenous Laws and customs are like ...

Housing is like ...

A treaty is like ...

Self-determination is like ...

Native Title is like ...

Land rights is like ...

Self-respect is like ...

Responsibility is like ...

Employment is like ...

Self-esteem is like ...

Caring for Country is like ...

Respect for Elders is like ...

Family is like ...