

Language involves the communication not only of facts but also of feelings. The appropriate simile at the right moment can help to make language more colourful and expressive.

A Match the adjectives on the left of each column with the nouns and phrases on the right:

as blind black bold brave bright brown busy clean clear cold cool cunning daft dead deaf different drunk dry dull easy easy fit fresh good happy hard heavy honest keen	as a bat coal brass a lion button a berry a bee whistle day (mud) ice a cucumber a fox a brush dodo a post chalk and cheese a lord bone ditchwater pie falling off a log a fiddle a daisy gold a sandboy nails lead the day is long mustard	as large light like long mad old plain poor pleased pretty quick quiet red regular sick silent smooth solid sound steady strong stubborn thick thick thin weak white white young	as life a feather two peas in a pod a piece of string a hatter the hills the nose on your face a church mouse punch a picture flash a mouse beetroot clockwork a parrot the grave a baby's bottom a rock a bell a rock an ox a mule thieves two short planks a rake a kitten a sheet snow you feel
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B Here are some situations. Which exclamation with a simile could you make in each case?

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| 1. You see a very sun-tanned girl in the street. | She's as brown as a berry. |
| 2. You're describing your tough, macho friend. | He's as hard as nails. |
| 3. You feel absolutely drained of strength. | I feel as weak as a kitten. |
| 4. You feel really well and full of energy. | I feel as fit as a fiddle. |
| 5. Your dear old grannie can't hear a thing. | She's as deaf as a post. |
| 6. Your daughter is extremely obstinate. | She's as stubborn as a mule. |
| 7. Your legs are so tired you can hardly walk. | My feet are as heavy as lead. |
| 8. You've heard that joke a thousand times before. | That joke's as old as the hills. |
| 9. You get up feeling full of life. | I feel as fresh as a daisy. |
| 10. You got terribly embarrassed at a party last night. | I went as red as a beetroot. |
| 11. Your friend is very crafty and devious. | He's as cunning as a fox. |
| 12. Your brother has enormous strength and stamina. | He's as strong as an ox. |

C Make up a few examples like those in exercise B but using OTHER similes. Then read them out to the class or practise them with your partner.

D Can you think of any similes in your own language that don't exist in English? How would you express them in English? Perhaps you can find some excellent ones that we don't have and introduce them into the language!