

Life is a roller coaster!

Life is like a roller coaster!

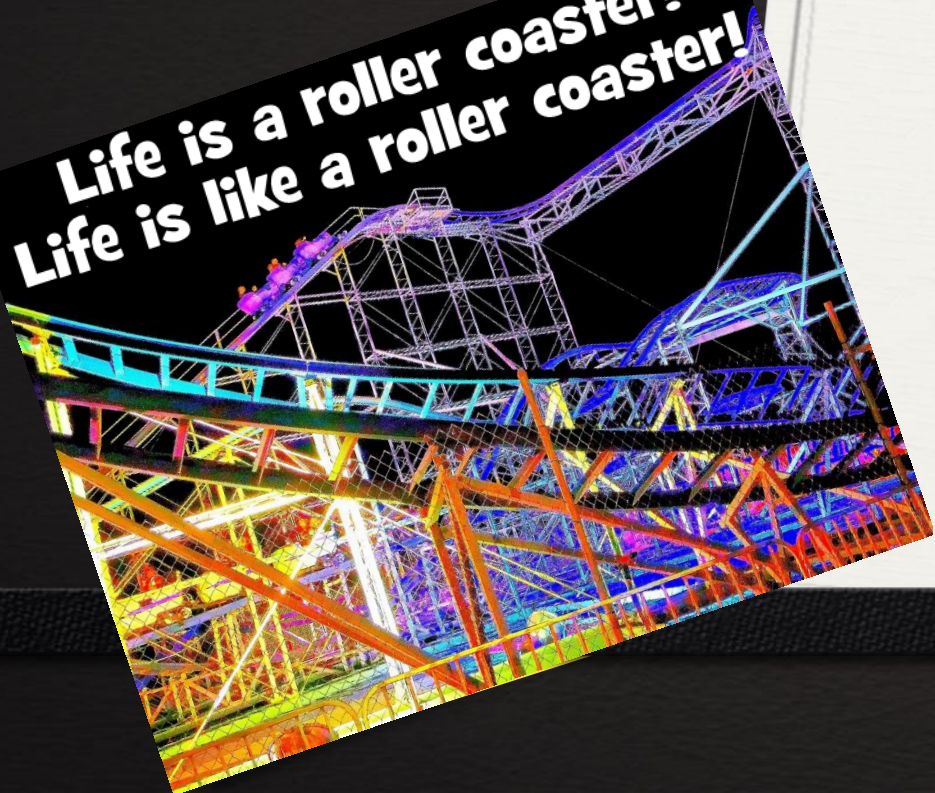


# Similes and Metaphors

# What are Similes and Metaphors?

Similes and metaphors share some common traits ...

**Life is a roller coaster!**  
**Life is like a roller coaster!**



- **Both are literacy devices that serve to create vivid imagery in literary texts.**
- **Both are used to make comparisons.**
- **Both often connect two items which might not otherwise be connected.**

# What are Similes?

**She felt as  
warm as toast.**



What are Similes?

**The boy ran like  
the wind.**



- **A simile is a figure of speech that makes a comparison, showing similarities between two different things.**
- A simile is a direct comparison and uses the word 'like' or 'as' in the comparison.

# What are Metaphors?

**This metaphor says that the exam was a walk in the park. It implies that the exam was as stress free as a walk in the park. It was easy!**

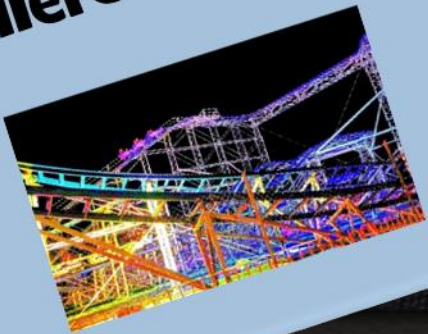
**The exam was a walk in the park.**



- **A metaphor also makes comparisons between objects. However, a metaphor does not include the words 'like' or 'as' in the comparison.**
- **Metaphors are more subtle than similes. In a metaphor the words 'is' or 'was' are often used.**

# What are Metaphors?

**Life is a  
rollercoaster!**



This metaphor compares life with a rollercoaster. It says life **is** a roller coaster. It has its ups and downs and can be scary and yet exciting. Much is conveyed in a few words.

The difference between similes and metaphors can be shown by similar lyrics from two different songs.

**Life is a Highway.**  
This is a metaphor. The words 'like' or 'as' are not used.

**“Life is a Highway” (Tom Cochrane)**



My heart is **like** an open highway. This is a simile. The word 'like' is used in direct comparison.

**“My heart is like an open highway” (Bon Jovi)**

# Why Use Similes and Metaphors?

This simile is from “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes.

The hours crawled  
by **like** years.



- **Metaphors can be used to describe abstract ideas.**
- **Similes and metaphors make texts more interesting and engaging for the reader or listener. They paint a vivid picture in the mind.**

**“The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes contains a metaphor and two similes in the same verse. Can you identify them?**



**“His eyes were hollows of madness,  
His hair like mouldy hay.  
But he loved the landlord’s daughter,  
The landlord’s red-lipped daughter.  
Dumb as a dog he listened,  
And he heard the robber say.”**

**“The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes**

“His eyes were “hollows of madness” is a metaphor. “Hair like mouldy hay” and “dumb as a dog” are similes.



“His eyes were hollows of madness,  
His hair like mouldy hay”  
But he loved the landlord’s daughter,  
The landlord’s red-lipped daughter.  
Dumb as a dog he listened,  
And he heard the robber say.”

“The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes

**Create a simile and a metaphor for ...**

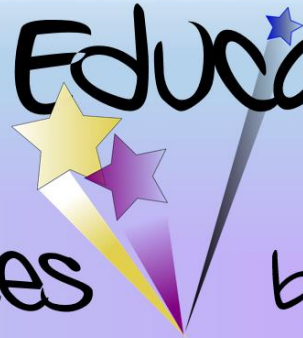


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