

Silly as a...

Some common expressions, idioms, and phrases are so familiar to adults that it's easy to forget that young people might not understand them. Plenty of common similes like "clean as a whistle" or "sly as a fox" are second nature to adults but don't make much sense to younger people. We asked kids aged 5 to 12 to fill in the blanks of some common similes. (We started with the younger kids' answers and worked our way up.)

Preparation & How-To's

- Print copies of the [similes without the answers](#) for both participants and visiting kids. There is also a [version with the answers](#) to have on hand.
- Read the answers aloud for a laugh.
- As kids fill out the sheets, display them for people to enjoy.



Silly as a...

1. Pretty as...

- a flower
- a princess
- a beautiful dress or a beautiful star
- perfect
- a rose flower
- a butterfly
- a fish

2. Sly as...

- our dog
- my slime
- spies
- can be
- a fox
- a fox
- a chicken

3. Strong as...

- superheroes and trees
- a dinosaur
- A boulder. No! A mountain! A mountain and a boulder!
- me
- a boulder
- the wind
- a bear

4. Busy as....

- work
- a mom
- my mom when she's working all night
- can be
- a lawyer
- a bee
- a bee

5. Gentle as...

- me
- a cat
- an omnivore that only eats plants
- a kitten
- a cat's fur
- a pomegranate seed
- a deer

6. Cool as...

- Daddy
- a man wearing cool shorts
- the winter

- ice
- a bean
- ice
- a koala

7. Calm as...

- Mommy
- a girl crying and then trying to calm down
- baby Yoda
- Mama
- the sea
- the breeze
- an eagle

8. Slow as....

- snails
- Grandpa
- a snail
- a sloth
- a turtle
- a sloth
- a sloth

9. Stiff as...

- buildings
- my daddy
- a really hard piece of bark
- paper
- a board
- a brick
- a rabbit

10. Tough as...

- me (ha-ha)
- a monster
- a mountain
- me
- a human tooth
- a stone
- a stone

11. Wise as...

- Daddy
- a girl
- Obi-Wan Kenobi
- Daddy
- an owl
- my grandma
- a wizard

12. Quick as...

- "Well, you just see who's fast enough!" (She turns around and runs as fast as she can out of the room.)
- my car
- a roadrunner
- me playing soccer
- a cheetah
- a bunny
- a brain

13. Free as...

- kitties
- someone in jail, and then they are free
- a dinosaur in Jurassic Park escaping out of jail

- a bird
- a feather
- a bird
- imagination

14. Clean as...

- me ("I just took a bath.")
- my nose
- a person just getting out of the bath
- a towel
- Mr. Clean
- soap
- nature

15. Sharp as...

- knives
- a sword
- a saber tooth tiger's tooth
- a needle
- a knife
- a shark tooth
- a cliff

16. Fresh as...

- me ("I'm fresh and clean.")
- a shower
- a shiny car
- a banana
- an apple
- fruit
- toothpaste

17. Cute as...

- my dog and my mom
- a cat
- a baby kangaroo
- my dog
- a kitten
- a dog
- a puppy

18. Light as...

- sun
- a marshmallow...no lots of marshmallows
- the sun
- air
- a leaf
- the sun
- a leaf

19. Stubborn as...

- ("What does *stubborn* mean?")
- a balloon
- a bully
- a wolf
- my sister
- me
- my sister

20. Dry as...

- outside
- my hair
- road dirt

- the sun
- the desert
- the sand
- a desert

21. Proud as...

- Mom (“because she is proud of me”)
 - a girl who did something proud
 - someone turning 18
 - Pride Month
 - a wolf
 - a celebrity
 - an athlete
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Fill in the Simile

1. Pretty as... _____
2. Sly as... _____
3. Strong as... _____
4. Busy as... _____
5. Gentle as... _____
6. Cool as... _____
7. Calm as... _____
8. Slow as... _____
9. Stiff as... _____
10. Tough as... _____
11. Wise as... _____
12. Quick as... _____
13. Free as... _____
14. Clean as... _____
15. Sharp as... _____
16. Fresh as... _____
17. Cute as... _____
18. Light as... _____
19. Stubborn as... _____
20. Dry as... _____
21. Proud as... _____

Similes with Answers

1. Pretty as a picture.
 2. Sly as a fox.
 3. Strong as an ox.
 4. Busy as a bee.
 5. Gentle as a lamb.
 6. Cool as a cucumber.
 7. Calm as a clam (or a millpond).
 8. Slow as molasses.
 9. Stiff as a board.
 10. Tough as nails.
 11. Wise as an owl.
 12. Quick as a wink (or a flash).
 13. Free as a bird.
 14. Clean as a whistle.
 15. Sharp as a tack.
 16. Fresh as a daisy.
 17. Cute as a button.
 18. Light as a feather.
 19. Stubborn as a mule.
 20. Dry as a board.
 21. Proud as a peacock.
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