

# Boost Free Lessons - Year 7 English

## Lesson 4: Simile, Metaphor and Personification

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worked Example 1

Name the technique and explain its effect: *The old car groaned as it climbed the hill.*

1. **Groaned** is something a living person does, but here it describes a car.
2. Giving human qualities to something non-human is **personification**.
3. Now explain the effect, which is what earns the marks.
4. It makes the car sound exhausted and old, as if the climb is a struggle for it.

**Personification. It makes the car seem tired and almost human, so the reader feels the effort of the climb.**

### Worked Example 2

Name the technique and explain its effect: *Her voice was a warm blanket.*

1. The voice is being compared to a blanket.
2. There is no **like** or **as**, so it is not a simile. The voice is said to **be** the blanket.
3. Saying one thing **is** another is a **metaphor**.
4. Explain the effect: a warm blanket suggests comfort and safety, so her voice makes people feel protected.

**Metaphor. It suggests her voice is comforting and makes people feel safe.**

**Remember:** A **simile** compares using like or as. A **metaphor** says one thing is another.

**Personification** gives human qualities to something non-human. Always explain the effect, not just the name.



**Question 1:** Name the technique used in each sentence.

1. The classroom was as quiet as a library.

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2. The sun smiled down on the beach.

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3. He was a lion on the football field.

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4. The clouds raced across the sky.

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5. Her eyes shone like polished glass.

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6. Time is a thief.

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7. The waves whispered against the shore.

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8. The exam was a mountain he had to climb.

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**Question 2:** Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

*The fog hung like a grey sheet over the town. The streetlights blinked awake one by one, and somewhere a door closed. To Ellie, the night was a closing door too, shutting out everything she knew.*

1. Find one simile in the passage and write it out.

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2. Find one example of personification and explain its effect.

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3. Find one metaphor and explain what it suggests.

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4. What overall mood do these techniques create?

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5. Which technique is most effective here, and why?

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6. Rewrite one sentence from the passage without any figurative language.

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**Question 3:** Answer the following questions.

1. Write a simile describing a busy shopping centre.

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2. Write a metaphor describing a difficult test.

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3. Write a sentence using personification to describe the wind.

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4. Explain the difference between a simile and a metaphor.

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5. Why is it not enough to just name a technique in an exam answer?

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**Answers:** Simile, Metaphor and Personification

### Question 1

1. Simile
2. Personification
3. Metaphor
4. Personification
5. Simile
6. Metaphor
7. Personification
8. Metaphor

### Question 2

1. *The fog hung like a grey sheet over the town.*
2. *The streetlights blinked awake one by one.* Blinking awake is human, which makes the town feel alive and slowly stirring.
3. *the night was a closing door.* It suggests the night is shutting off the day and leaving no way back.
4. A still, eerie and slightly unsettling mood.
5. Model response: the metaphor of the closing door, because it suggests both darkness and being trapped.
6. Model response: Thick fog covered the town.

### Question 3

1. Model response: The shopping centre was as crowded as a train platform at peak hour.
2. Model response: The test was a locked door with no key.
3. Model response: The wind rattled the windows and shouted through the gaps in the door.
4. A simile compares using **like** or **as**. A metaphor says one thing **is** another, without like or as.
5. Naming it only shows you spotted it. Marks come from explaining the effect it has on the reader.

