

Unit 13 Going it alone

Similes used to describe people

Learn the expressions

1 In this unit, you learned about some extreme situations, and how people acted in those situations. Let's look at similes that are used to describe people's behavior. A simile is an expression in which you compare two things using the words *like* or *as ... as*. For example, *She moves like a cat*. Complete the similes with the phrases in the box. Then check your answers in the answer key on this page.

a bee	a bird	a dog	nails	a cucumber
an owl	an ox	a peacock	a rock	a fox

- as free *as a bird* _____
- as tough as _____
- as sly as _____
- as busy as _____
- as sick as _____
- as cool as _____
- as wise as _____
- as solid as _____
- as proud as _____
- as strong as _____

2 Which of the similes would you use to describe someone who:

- is able to make good decisions and give good advice? _____
- never gets nervous? _____
- is very determined and able to deal with difficult conditions? _____
- someone who is loyal and able to be trusted? _____
- uses tricks and dishonesty to get what he or she wants? _____

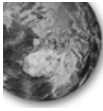
Answer Key

Exercise 1

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. as free as a bird | 6. as cool as a cucumber |
| 2. as tough as nails | 7. as wise as an owl |
| 3. as sly as a fox | 8. as solid a rock |
| 4. as busy as a bee | 9. as proud as a peacock |
| 5. as sick as a dog | 10. as strong as an ox |

Exercise 2

- as wise as an owl
- as cool as a cucumber
- as tough as nails
- as solid as a rock
- as sly as a fox



Use the expressions

3 Complete the sentences with the similes in the box.

as sick as a dog	as proud as a peacock	as strong as an ox
as busy as a bee	as sly as a fox	as tough as nails
as cool as a cucumber	as wise as an owl	as solid as a rock
as free as a bird		

- Doesn't Valerie ever have any free time? She always seems to be _____!
- Let's get Pete to help us move. He can carry all the heavy boxes. He's _____.
- Suzanne has faced all kinds of challenges, but she has come through most of them even stronger than before. Anyone could tell you this: She's _____.
- Steve seems much older than his age. He has a lot of common sense; in fact, compared to most 21-year-olds, he's _____.
- Why are you questioning Mickey's loyalty? You two have been close for years, and he's always been _____.
- I don't know what's wrong with me today. I woke up this morning feeling _____. Maybe I should go to the doctor.
- That reporter was able to find out all about the secret meeting. He's _____.
- Let's get together next week. I'm taking some time off from work, and I'll be _____.
- Annie was so happy to finally get her degree. She walked across the stage, looking _____.
- Ed didn't show any emotions when he heard that he had failed all his classes. He's _____.

Make the expressions your own

4 Think of someone you know or an experience you've had that could be described using one of the similes in this unit. Write a paragraph about the person or the experience.
