

Activity 2: Similes and Metaphors

Radio sports commentators often use similes and metaphors to ‘paint a picture’ for the audience. This type of imagery is a **figurative** comparison between two things that do not have a **literal** connection. This means that the comparison is not real – it is imagined.

Similes are direct comparisons and usually contain the word ‘**like**’ or ‘**as**’.

For example: ‘**Hard as nails**’ might be used to describe someone who is tough or does not show any feelings. ‘**Took off like a rocket**’ might be used to describe something, or someone, that accelerates quickly.

Metaphors are subtler in that the comparison is suggested, rather than being explicitly stated.

For example:
‘**The light at the end of the tunnel**’ could be used to describe something positive happening after a period of negativity.

During the Live Lesson, you will be shown a clip of Usain Bolt running the 100m race at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin. **Working in pairs, watch the clip and complete one or both of the tasks below.**

1.Simile: Complete the sentence below using a simile.

Usain Bolt takes off from the blocks like a

2.Metaphor: Write a metaphor to describe how Usain Bolt ran the race.

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Your teacher can send in your ideas to live.lessons@bbc.co.uk or use the hashtag [#bbclivelessons](https://twitter.com/bbclivelessons) for a chance to be featured on our Live Lesson.