Saratoga Library English Conversation Club
Similes and Friendship
Nov 12, 2026

A couple of weeks ago we discussed friendship and how friendship may have evolved. Friendship is a special bond that connects people who care about each other and help to keep each other happy and safe. There are many ways to express how friends make you feel and how important friends are to you.

Today, we will use something called "**similes**" (SIM-uh-lees) to describe friends. A **simile** is a way to describe something by comparing it to an unrelated thing to express a feeling about it. Similes use the words 'like' or 'as' to make the comparison.

Similes can help you describe something that is difficult to put into words to communicate how you feel about someone or something. They are imaginative and colorful ways to express your feelings. We can use **similes** to express emotions such as joy, sadness, love, or sorrow.

For example, if you have a friend who you think is very courageous, you could describe her with the **simile**, "She is as brave as a lion." Another example with the word, "like", is "My friend is like a ray of sunshine" meaning this friend is bright and cheery.

Similes are also helpful to write a heartfelt notes or poems to describe something that is special to you or to convey something that you'd like your reader to feel too. **Similes** can bring "life" to your words. In this handout, we will review 15 **similes** that can be used to describe a special friendship.

15 Similes for Friendship

1. **As steady as a lighthouse**
   Meaning: A friend who provides constant guidance and support.
   Explanation: Just as a lighthouse stands firm against storms and helps ships find direction, a true friend offers *stability and reassurance* during uncertain times.
   Examples:
   - "You are *as steady as a lighthouse* in my darkest days."
   - "Her friendship is *as steady as a lighthouse* guiding me home."

   Other Ways to Say It:
   - A beacon in the storm (a beacon is a light or device that shows the location of something)
   - A constant source of light
   - An anchor of support

2. **Like sunshine on a cloudy day**
   Meaning: A friend or thing that brings joy during difficult times.
   Explanation: Sunshine breaking through clouds represents *hope and positivity*. A cheerful friend can instantly lift a dark mood.
   Examples:
   - "Your smile is *like sunshine on a cloudy day*."
   - "Watching my grandkids play is *like sunshine on a cloudy day*."

   Other Ways to Say It:
   - A burst of brightness
   - A ray of hope
   - A warm glow in tough times

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3. As dependable as the sunrise

Meaning: A person who is always reliable

Explanation: The sunrise happens every day without fail. A dependable friend shows up consistently and keeps promises.

Practice Dialog

A: Business is so busy at my company.
B: That's great! How are you able to keep up?
A: I have great co-workers. They are also close friends. I can always count on them to get the work done.
B: I guess they must be *as dependable as the sunrise*.

Other Ways to Say It:

- Always there without question
- Reliable through every season
- Steady and trustworthy no matter what happens

4. Like roots of a strong tree

Meaning: A friendship built on deep connection.

Explanation: Tree roots grow deep and hold firm. Strong friendships are grounded in *shared values and history.*

Example:

- "Our bond is like *roots of a strong tree*."

Practice Dialog

A: What are you doing for the holidays?
B: I'm going back to my hometown for my high school's 60th reunion.
A: Do you still keep in touch with your high school friends?
B: Oh, yes! We're connected *like the roots of a strong tree*. We talk to each other all the time.

Other Ways to Say It:

- Deeply grounded bond
- Firm foundation of trust
- Strong at the core

5. As comforting as a warm blanket

Meaning: A friend who offers emotional comfort.

Explanation: A warm blanket creates safety and relaxation. Similarly, a supportive friend brings *calm and reassurance.*

Examples:

- "Her words are *as comforting as a warm blanket*."
- "I can always tell my best friend my worries. She is *as comforting as a warm blanket*."

Other Ways to Say It:

- A safe haven or safe harbor
- Gentle reassurance
- A cozy presence

6. Like a compass (in the wilderness)

Meaning: A friend who guides wisely.

Explanation: A compass provides direction when lost. A wise friend offers *thoughtful advice.*

Examples:

- "You're *like a compass* in my confusion."

Practice Dialog

A: Henry was very upset when he lost his job.
B: Yes, he seemed lost and depressed. He didn't know what to do.
A: His best friend helped him find a new job that's even better than the last one.
B: Yes, he said his friend was *like a compass in the wilderness*.

Other Ways to Say It:

- A voice of reason
- A guiding force
- Clear direction
- Like finding true north

7. As refreshing as cool rain

Meaning: A friend who renews your energy.

Explanation: Rain refreshes dry land. Similarly, meaningful conversation can *restore your spirit.*

Examples:

- "Talking to you is *as refreshing as cool rain*."
- "His presence feels *like refreshing cool rain*."

Other Ways to Say It:

- Energizing presence
- Spirit-lifting company
- Renewing energy

8. Like a bridge over troubled water

Meaning: A friend who helps during hardship.

Explanation: A bridge helps people cross obstacles. A supportive friend helps navigate life's challenges.

Examples:

- "The manager is *like a bridge over troubled water*."

Practice Dialog

A: The two departments in the company could not agree on what product to develop next.
B: I was afraid the company was going to fall apart over the differences.
A: Fortunately, the new manager helped the two departments work out their differences.
B: Yes, I'll say. She was *like a bridge over troubled water* and now the company is developing a great new product.

Other Ways to Say It:

- A path through difficulty
- Support during trials
- Strength in struggle

9. As loyal as a shadow

Meaning: A friend who never leaves your side.

Explanation: A shadow stays close wherever you go. Loyal friends remain *present through every stage of life.*

Examples:

- "He's as *loyal as a shadow*."

Practice Dialog

A: Sarah lost a really tough election year for mayor. And now she's trying to recover.
B: Yes, it was brutal. Many people who she thought were friends stopped seeing her except for you.
A: She's a great friend. I'll always be by her side.
B: She's lucky to have you. You're *as loyal as a shadow*.

Other Ways to Say It:

- Faithful companion
- Constant presence
- Always by my side

10. Like stars in the night sky

Meaning: A friend who shines even in darkness.

Explanation: Stars are bright in darkness. Similarly, a true friend *stands out during difficult times.*

Examples:

- "You're like stars in my darkest hours."

Practice Dialog

A: When I moved to this city, I didn't have a single friend until I met you.
B: Yeah, it's funny how we hit it off.
A: It's a good thing we both like bird watching or else we might never have met.
B: Your friendship is *like stars in the night sky.* You can always lift my mood.

Other Ways to Say It:

- A shining presence
- Light in darkness
- Guiding sparkle

11. Like a favorite song

Meaning: A friend who brings comfort and familiarity.

Explanation: A favorite song feels *personal and uplifting*, much like cherished friendship.

Example:

- "Our friendship is *like my favorite song*."

Practice Dialog

A: Tommy ran into an old friend he lost contact with years ago.
B: Yes, I heard they grew up together when they were in elementary school.
A: Tommy said they resumed their friendship as if they had just seen each other yesterday.
B: Their friendship is *like their favorite song*! They're still very close after all these years.

Other Ways to Say It:
- Comforting melody
- Familiar joy
- Heartwarming rhythm

12. Like a safe harbor
Meaning: A friend who provides safety and acceptance.
Explanation: Ships rest safely in harbor. In friendship, safety means *emotional acceptance and security*.
Example:
- "You're *like a safe harbor* when times get tough."

Practice Dialog
A: Emily has always been shy. She's not comfortable around most people.
B: She's very relaxed and happy when you're with her.
A: Yes, I think she's coming out of her shell. She's actually very funny and kind.
B: You're *like a safe harbor* where she can be herself.

Other Ways to Say It:
- A place of belonging
- Emotional refuge
- Shelter from storms

13. As calm as a quiet lake
Meaning: A peaceful friend.
Explanation: A calm lake reflects stillness and clarity. Such friends create emotional balance.
Example:
- "The doctor is as *calm as a quiet lake* even in a tough situation."

Practice Dialog
A: Whenever I have a rough day at work, I like to hang out with Sam.
B: Oh yeah? Why?
A: Well, he is as *calm as a quiet lake*, and he helps calm me down.
B: It's nice to have a friend like that.

Other Ways to Say It:
- Serene companion
- Peaceful spirit
- Gentle influence

14. Like a well-worn path
Meaning: A familiar and trusted friendship.
Explanation: A well-worn path feels easy to walk. Trusted friends feel natural and comfortable.
Examples:
- "Our friendship feels *like a well-worn path*."

Practice Dialog

A: Every Saturday, I talk with my best friend from college.
B: What do you talk about?
A: All kinds of things – whatever is on our minds.
B: I guess your friendship is like a well-worn path.

Other Ways to Say It:

- Comfortable bond
- Easy connection
- Familiar support

15. Like a treasure chest

Meaning: A friend full of value and joy.
Explanation: A treasure chest holds precious items. True friendship holds priceless memories.
Examples:

- "Your friendship is like a treasure chest."
- "Every memory with you feels like a treasure chest."

Other Ways to Say It:

- Priceless companion
- Rare gift
- Precious bond

Conclusion

Friendship is one of life's most meaningful relationships. Using creative **similes** allows you to describe many positive traits like loyalty, support, comfort, calmness, and joy in a vivid way. Whether you're writing a message, preparing a speech, or sharing appreciation, these ***expressions*** help you communicate with *depth, sincerity, and emotional clarity.* The right comparison can transform ordinary words into something enjoyable and sometimes unforgettable.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have a favorite song that gives you comfort?
2. Do you think similes are a good way to describe a friend or friendship?
3. Can you think of some other similes to describe friendship?
4. How can you use similes in daily communication?
5. What do you think makes a simile an effective way to communicate how you feel? Do similes "paint a picture" in your mind about something?
6. Do you think similes are a good way to write a note in a card to someone?
7. What are some qualities of a good friendship?
8. How long have you known your best friends?
9. Some similes can be negative. Can you think of any?