



Vocabulary Development

Middle School Standard 1.3 – Employ multiple strategies to recognize words as they construct meaning, including the use of context clues, word roots, and affixes.

Middle School Language Arts (grades 6 - 8)

We can understand the following figures of speech by their root words:

figure of speech	root word origin	root meaning	definition	example
simile	similes (Latin)	like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two unlike things are compared using "like" or "as" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The boy was as mean as a bull.
metaphor	meta phevín (Greek)	change to bear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likening something to an unlike thing to create a comparison or analogy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the world is a stage in the evening of life a winter of discontent
personification	persone (French)	person, human being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A person or thing typifying a certain quality or idea that is outstanding 2) A figure of speech where inanimate objects or abstractions are endowed with human qualities or form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother Theresa is the personification of a person's ability to love unconditionally. Time was dragging its feet all day.
hyperbole	hyper ballein (Latin)	beyond To throw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An exaggeration or extravagant statement used as a figure of speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm so hungry I could eat a horse! Paul Bunyan's steps were as big as the Grand Canyon!
analogy	ana Logos (Greek)	according to proportion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where correspondence exists in some respects between otherwise dissimilar things. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preacher called the Bible a spiritual atlas because, he said, it's a road map for living.

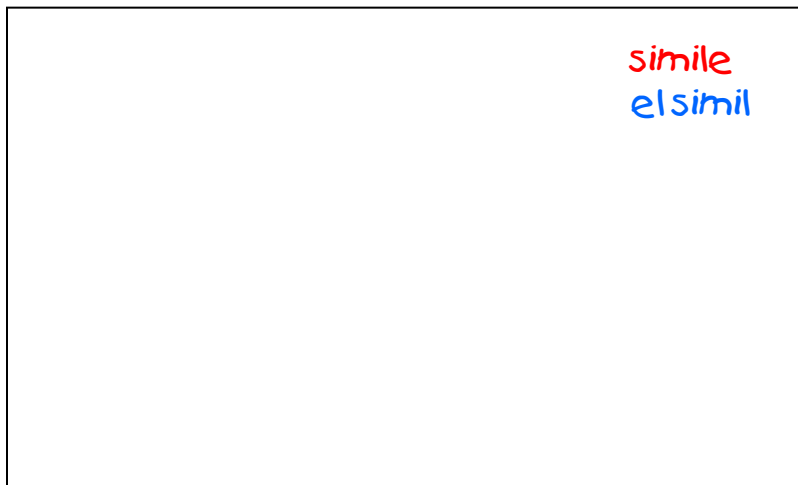
Prepare an overhead and review the figures of speech with a contextual sentence. Then have students match the sentence to the figure of speech. Remember your Greek and Latin roots!

analogy	She's as skinny as a rail.
hyperbole	Michael Jordon stands as a real hero figure in sports and life.
metaphor	She thinks that she swims well enough to cross the Atlantic Ocean!
personification	The setting sun left a slowly darkening sky, like the closing of curtains.
simile	Big changes in life are like new births – exciting, but often painful.

STEPS FOR STUDENTS

Step 1 – Write the Word

Have students write the vocabulary word in the upper corner of a large index card.



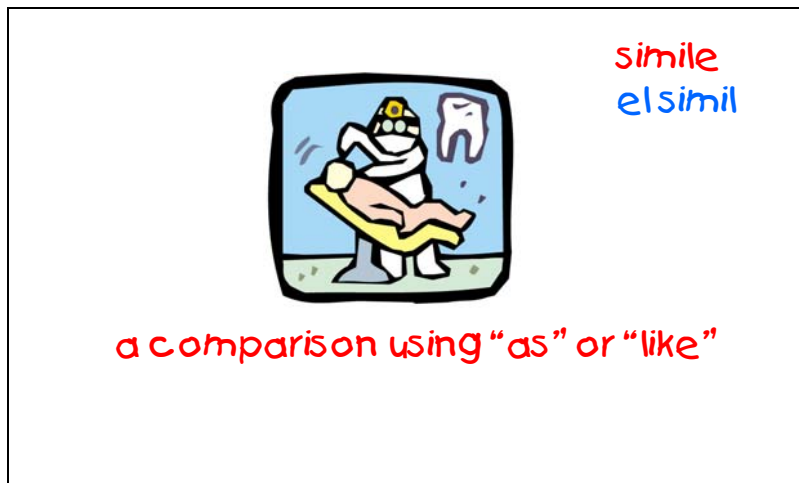
Step 2 – Add a Visual

Have students draw an image that reminds them of this kind of figure of speech.




Step 3 – Write a Definition

Have students write the word's definition under their drawing.



Step 4 – Create a Sentence

Students write a sentence based on the drawing of the figure of speech. They then flip the card over and write just the word in the center.



simile
elsimil

a comparison using "as" or "like"
Getting my sister to do her
homework is like pulling teeth!

simile
elsimil

Creative Use of the Cards

Pair students up and have them use their cards as flash cards.