

Name _____ Date _____

English Basics

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Metaphors

Metaphors are comparisons that show how two things that are not alike in most ways are similar in one important way. Metaphors are a way to describe something. Authors use them to make their writing more interesting or entertaining.

Unlike similes that use the words “as” or “like” to make a comparison, **metaphors state that something is something else.**

Read the statements that contain metaphors in italics. Then complete the statements that explain the metaphors.

1. *Brian was a wall*, bouncing every tennis ball back over the net.

This metaphor compares Brian to a wall because _____.

- a. He was very strong.
- b. He was very tall.
- c. He kept returning the balls.
- d. His body was made of cells.

2. We would have had more pizza to eat if *Tammy hadn't been such a hog*.

Tammy was being compared to a hog because she _____.

- a. looked like a hog
- b. ate like a hog
- c. smelled like a hog
- d. was as smart as a hog



3. *Cindy was such a mule.* We couldn't get her to change her mind.

The metaphor compares Cindy to a mule because she was _____.

- a. always eating oats
- b. able to do hard work
- c. raised on a farm
- d. very stubborn

4. The poor rat didn't have a chance. Our old *cat, a bolt of lightning*, caught his prey.

The cat was compared to a bolt of lightning because he was _____.

- a. very fast
- b. very bright
- c. not fond of fleas
- d. very old

5. Even a child could carry my dog, Dogface, around for hours. *He's such a feather.*

This metaphor implies that Dogface _____.

- a. is not cute
- b. looks like a bird
- c. is not heavy
- d. can fly