



## Translating Metaphors

A metaphor is a kind of figurative language that is a direct comparison between two unlike things. You can tell a metaphor from a simile because a simile uses the words "like" or "as." A metaphor is often constructed using the verb "to be."

**EXAMPLE:** I'm not just whistling Dixie!

**MEANING:** I am not wasting time; I have a serious purpose.

**DIRECTIONS:** Each of the sentences below contains a metaphor. Explain what each one means.

1. Kevin kept all of his anger bottled up inside.
2. Helen's suggestions were food for thought.
3. When it came time to make a decision, I knew I was at a fork in the road of my life.
4. Reading that book gave my mind wings.
5. My brother is a real coach potato.
6. Jean had an ocean of feelings for the pretty blond girl.
7. Finally, I shook the dust from my feet and got to work.
8. I refused to take the snake oil that my doctor had prescribed.