

# Analogy

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_1012X\_EN

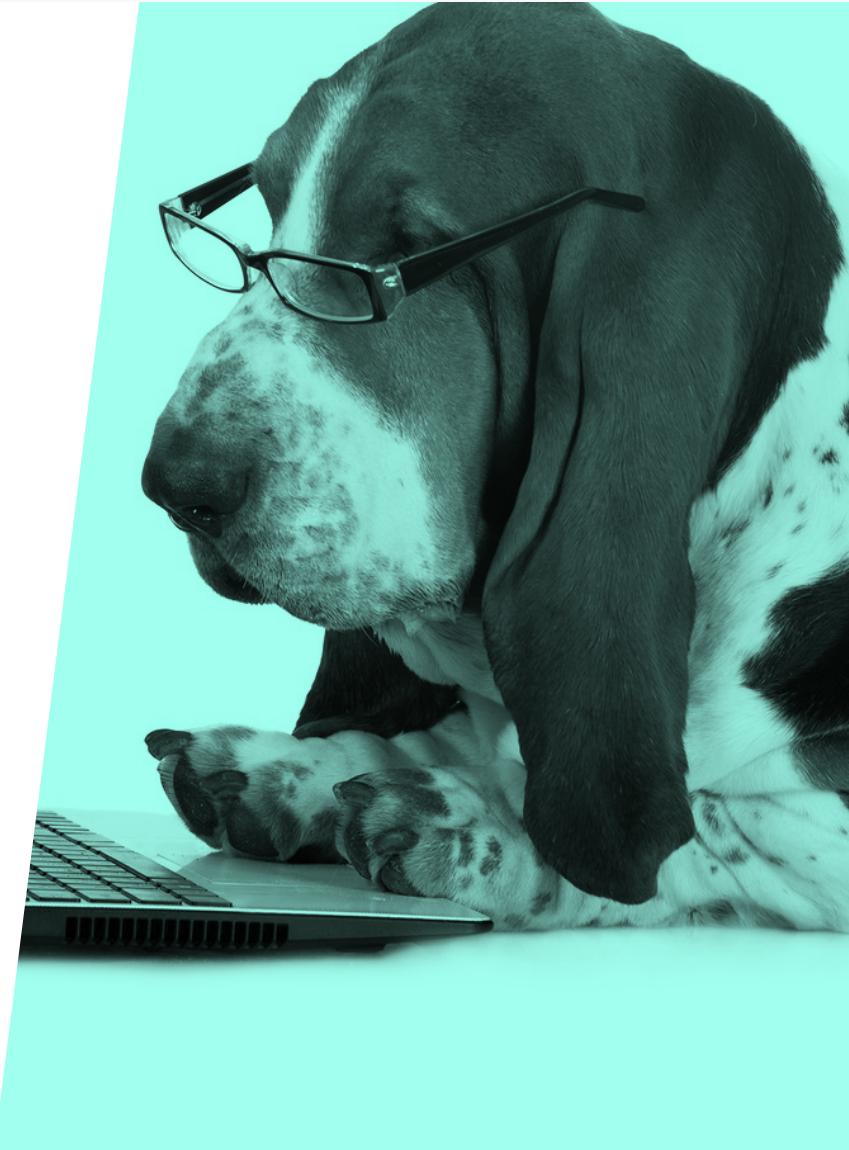
LANGUAGE  
English

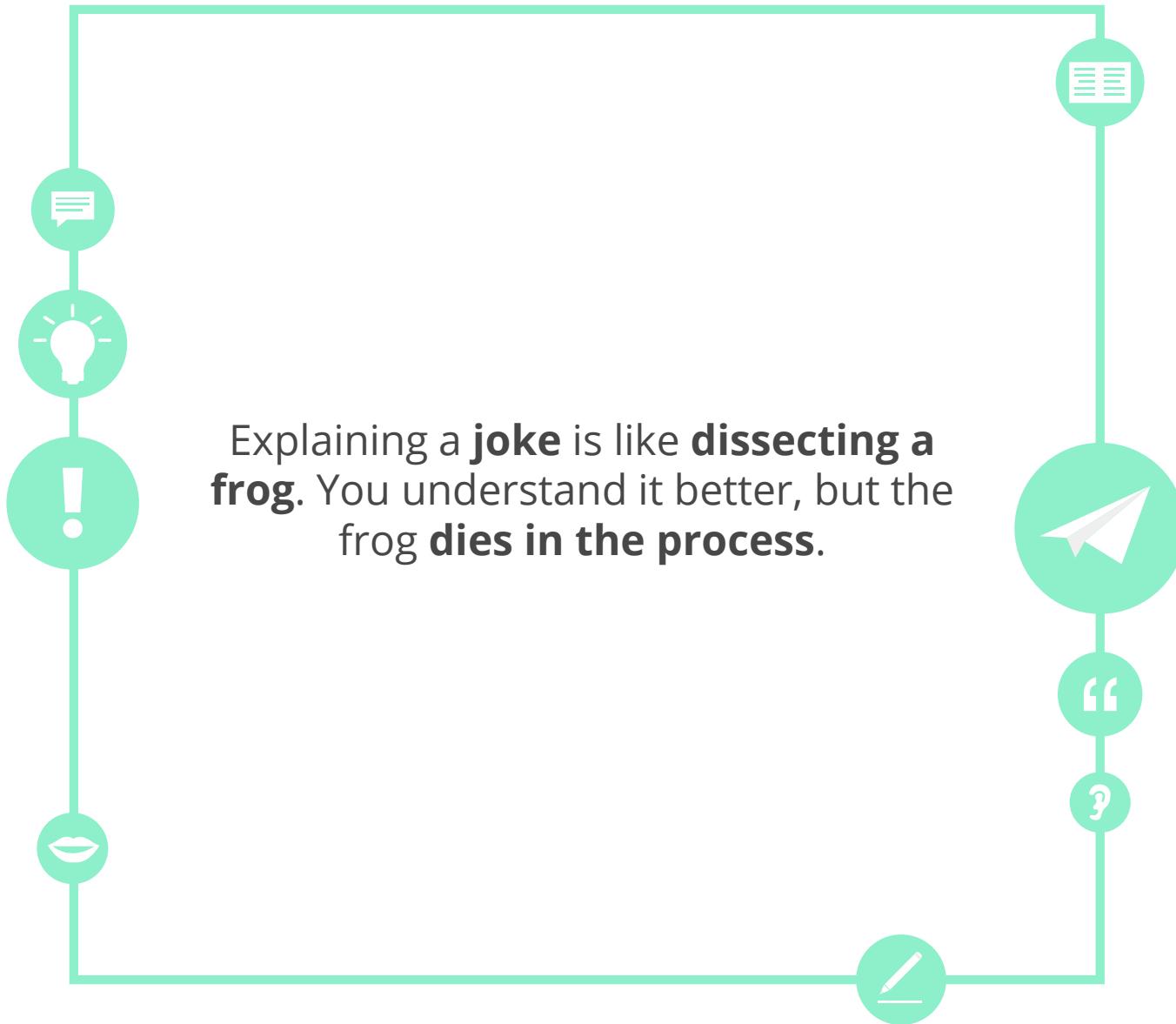




## Goals

- Can understand and form analogies in various contexts.
- Can distinguish between similes and metaphors and give examples of them.







## Warm-up: unscramble

A

never

from the tree.

falls far

The apple

C

you never know

a box of  
chocolates:

Life is like

which one  
you're going to  
get.

B

a duck

like

She took to it

to water.

D

in a haystack.

trying to find

It's like

a needle



## Warm-up



What is an **analogy**?



## Warm-up

Why do we use them?

## analogy

An **analogy** is a comparison between one thing and another for the purpose of explanation.



She took to dancing **like** a duck to water.



## Examples

gratitude / love

The wind beneath my wings

multicultural

Melting pot

to betray  
someone

To stab someone in the back

very quiet

As quiet as a mouse

to be angry

To have a face like thunder

lying

Lying is like entering the Minotaur's Labyrinth. The further you go, the harder it is to go back.

## similes

## metaphors

Analogy use both metaphors and similes to compare two things or ideas.

- Similes use **like** or **as** to make the link clear.
- In metaphors, the comparison is **implicit**.



Her voice is **like** music to my ears.  
Her face was white **as** snow.



The assignment was a piece of cake.  
His recovery went downhill.



## Practise

Suggest analogies to give the opposite meaning.



≠



The test was a piece of cake.

\_\_\_\_\_



≠



He had a face like thunder.

\_\_\_\_\_

“

## Understanding analogies

- It is important to remember that giving an analogy is more complex than simply thinking of a metaphor or a simile.

- An analogy is the **application** of literary tools (like similes and metaphors) to express a new concept or idea.



## The purpose of analogies

Analogies make links between new concepts and known ones for the purposes of explanation.

Which concepts are being explained in the examples below?



**Child:** What is faith?

**Parent:** Faith is like good WiFi. It can't be seen but it connects you to what you need.



**Juliet:** My love is the everlasting smell of a sweet rose!



## The concept of *wu wei*

The concept of *wu wei* is central to the teachings of Taoism. *Wu wei* translates to *without* or *to not have*, and its literal meaning is without effort. *Wu Wei* relates to the paradoxical concept of action without action (*wei wu wei*); by cultivating *wu wei*, we harness the human capacity to allow for nature to carry us towards our goals.

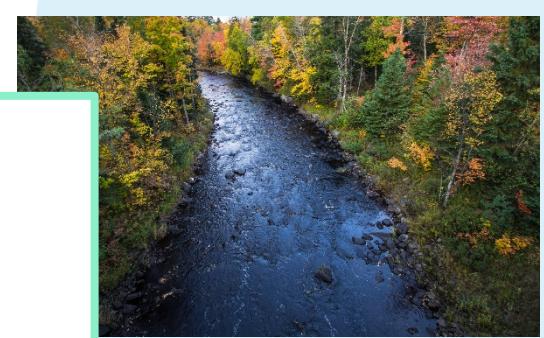
Now, see how the analogy on the next slide can help us to understand the concept.





## The concept of *wu wei*

Two friends need to travel ten miles down a river. They have two options. The first is to use a kayak in which to **paddle** down the river. One friend decides to take the kayak and proceeds to paddle down the river, making a great effort to place himself in the correct position in the centre of the river and to prevent **capsizing**. He arrives at the other end of the river safely, but exhausted.





## The concept of *wu wei*

The second friend decides instead to float on a **rubber ring** and allow the river to carry her along. Of course, there are moments where the friend is carried very quickly, other times when she appears not to move at all, and even worrying times where she is trapped in some **reeds** along the side of the river bed. However, the river always releases the friend from these obstacles and carries her towards her destination. The friend arrives feeling relaxed and even energised, as she has not battled the force of the river in order to reach her goal!

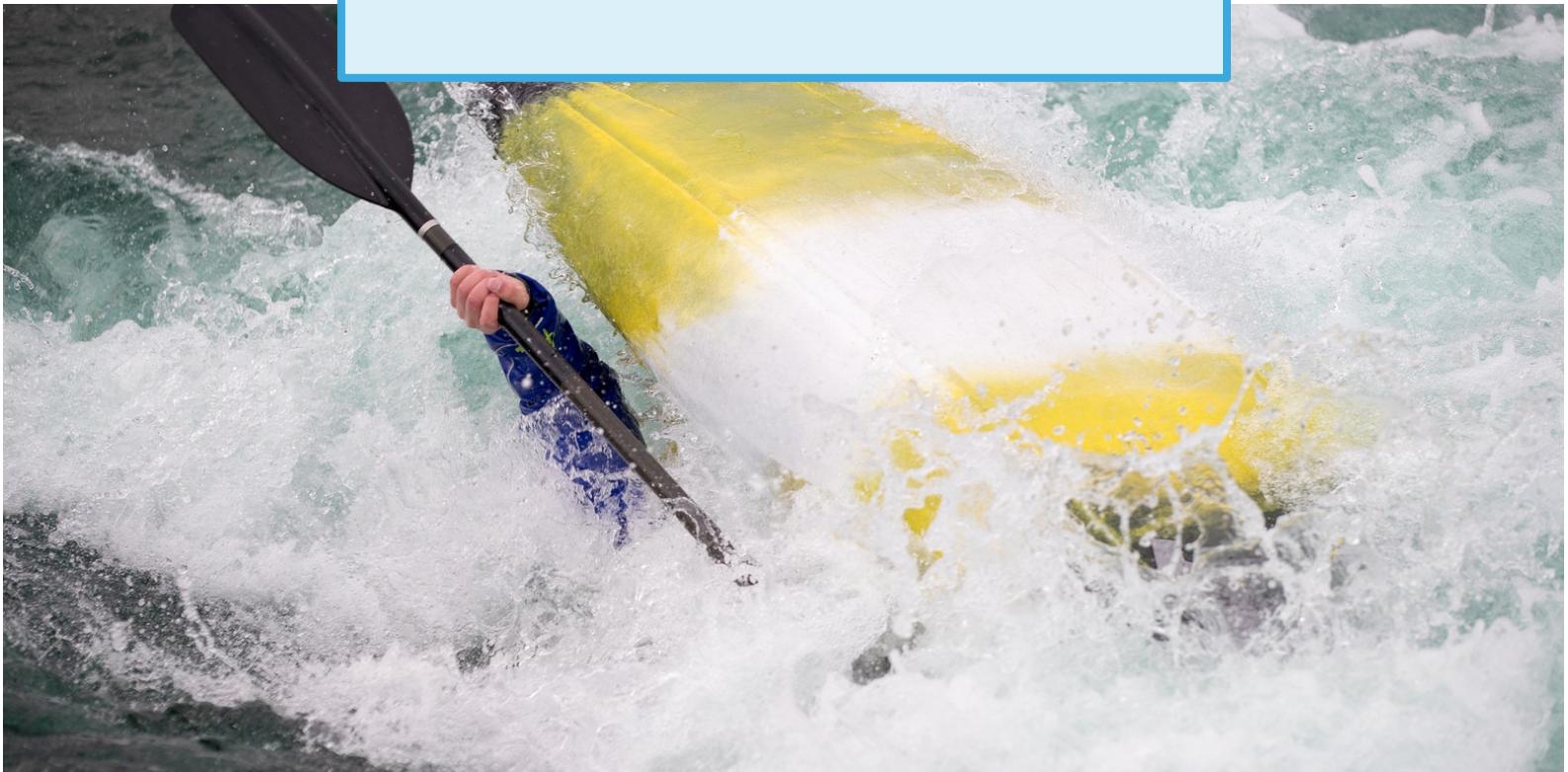


to paddle



He **paddled** down the river.

to capsized



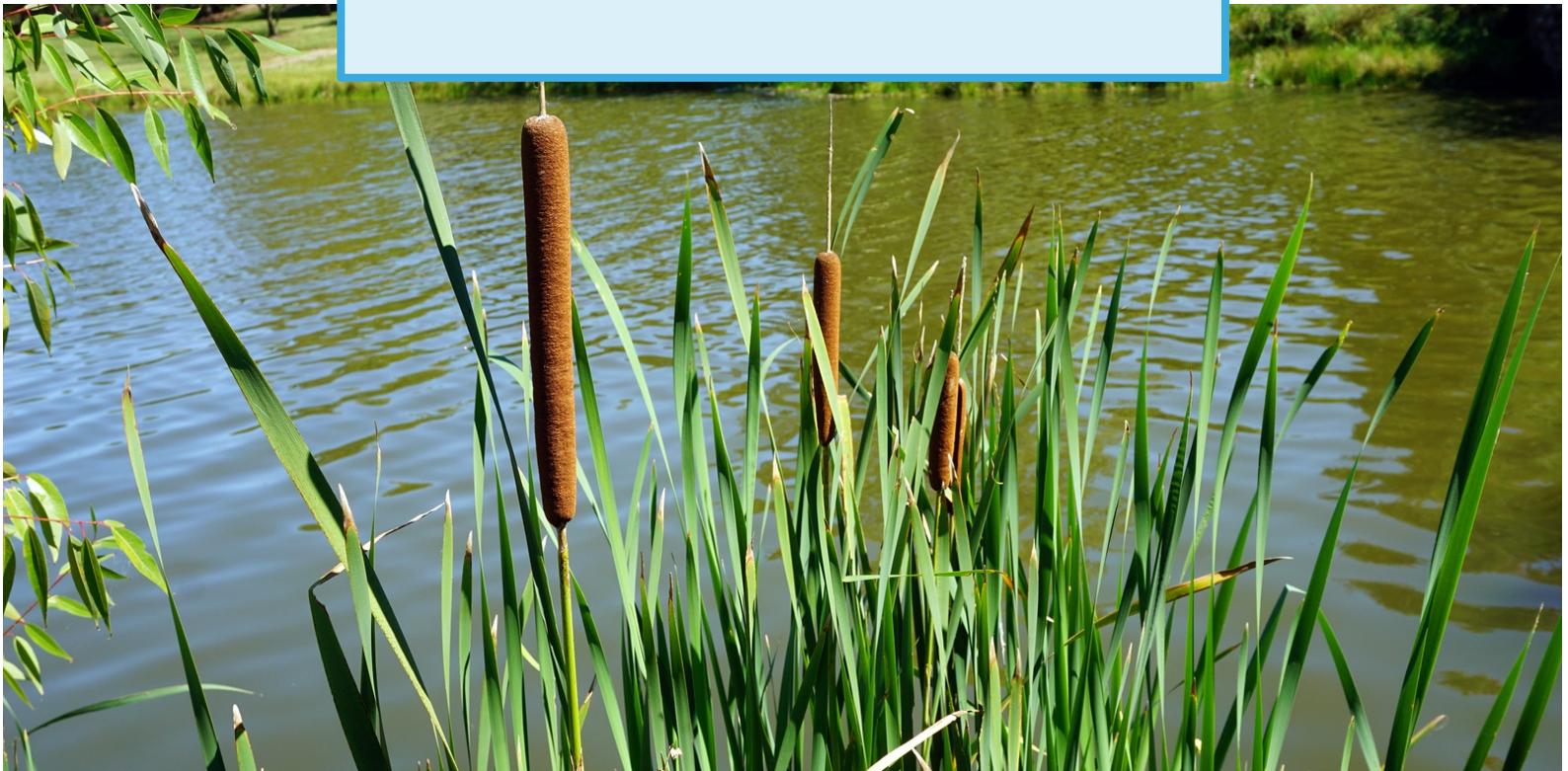
He stayed in the middle of the river to resist **capsizing**.

**rubber ring**



The second friend decided instead to float on a **rubber ring**.

reeds



She got trapped in some **reeds**, but the river released her.



## Discussion

Did this analogy  
help you to  
understand *wu*  
*wei*?



## Discuss

**Can you think of other areas of life where analogies are helpful?**

philosophy

educating  
children



## More tools!

Analogies often use natural imagery to explain concepts or ideas, especially in philosophy. Can you use the images below to explain the concepts?



Depression



Tenacity

“

## Analogies for describing emotions

- **Analogies** can be very useful when trying to talk about **emotions** that are new to us.
- For example, falling in love can be described as jumping off a cliff into unknown waters.
- Analogies are especially useful to describe emotions that exist only in certain cultures, such as the Czech emotion called litost (see next slide).





## Litost (a Czech Emotion)

This emotion can be explained by the following analogy, derived from a book by Czech author Milan Kundera:

A child is made to feel small by his violin teacher who **rebukes** him for playing the wrong note. Revenge is not as simple as with other children because the teacher has more power over the child due to her authority. The child must be more creative and **ingenious** in his quest for **vengeance**. The child decides to repeat the mistake again and again until the violin teacher is so annoyed that she throws him out of the window to his death. While falling, the child is “delighted by the thought that the nasty teacher will be charged with murder”.

What do the words in bold mean?





## Litost

Think of this analogy and consider the following questions together.



1

Do you now understand the meaning of litost? How does it differ from, for example, vengefulness?



## Litost

**Think of this analogy and consider the following questions together.**



**1** Do you now understand the meaning of litost? How does it differ from, for example, vengefulness?

**2** Is this analogy memorable? Why (not)?



## Litost

Think of this anecdote and consider the following questions together.



1 Do you now understand the meaning of litost? How does it differ from, for example, vengefulness?

2 Is this analogy memorable? Why (not)?

3 Can you think of other authors who use analogies to explain emotions?

“

## False friends



- Watch out! Analogies are different from acronyms, anagrams and anecdotes.



**Student:** What is faith?

**Teacher:** When I was a little girl, I used to have faith...

**Student:** Now I'm even more confused!



## False friends

### acronym

An abbreviation formed by the first letters of other words. e.g. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation).

### anecdote

A short story relating to someone's real life.

### anagram

A new word formed by rearranging the letters of the original word. e.g. glean (angel).

### analogy

The subject of this lesson!



## Analogy or anecdote? Discuss.



My friend once had a lizard for a pet when we were little. We'd found him at the pond near her house. Everyone warned her they require a lot of care, but she didn't listen and unfortunately he didn't survive for long.



Learning a new language is like being a child again! You are suddenly in the position where you don't understand everything that's going on, and it's much harder to express yourself.



Understanding something difficult is just the same as learning to ride a bike – suddenly you're just able to do it!



After that last experience I had, I'm not planning on dating for a while. Love is pain and suffering!



## Describe the image

Make up two sentences for each image: one analogy and one anecdote.  
Be as crazy as you like!





## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Answer Key

### Exercise p. 4

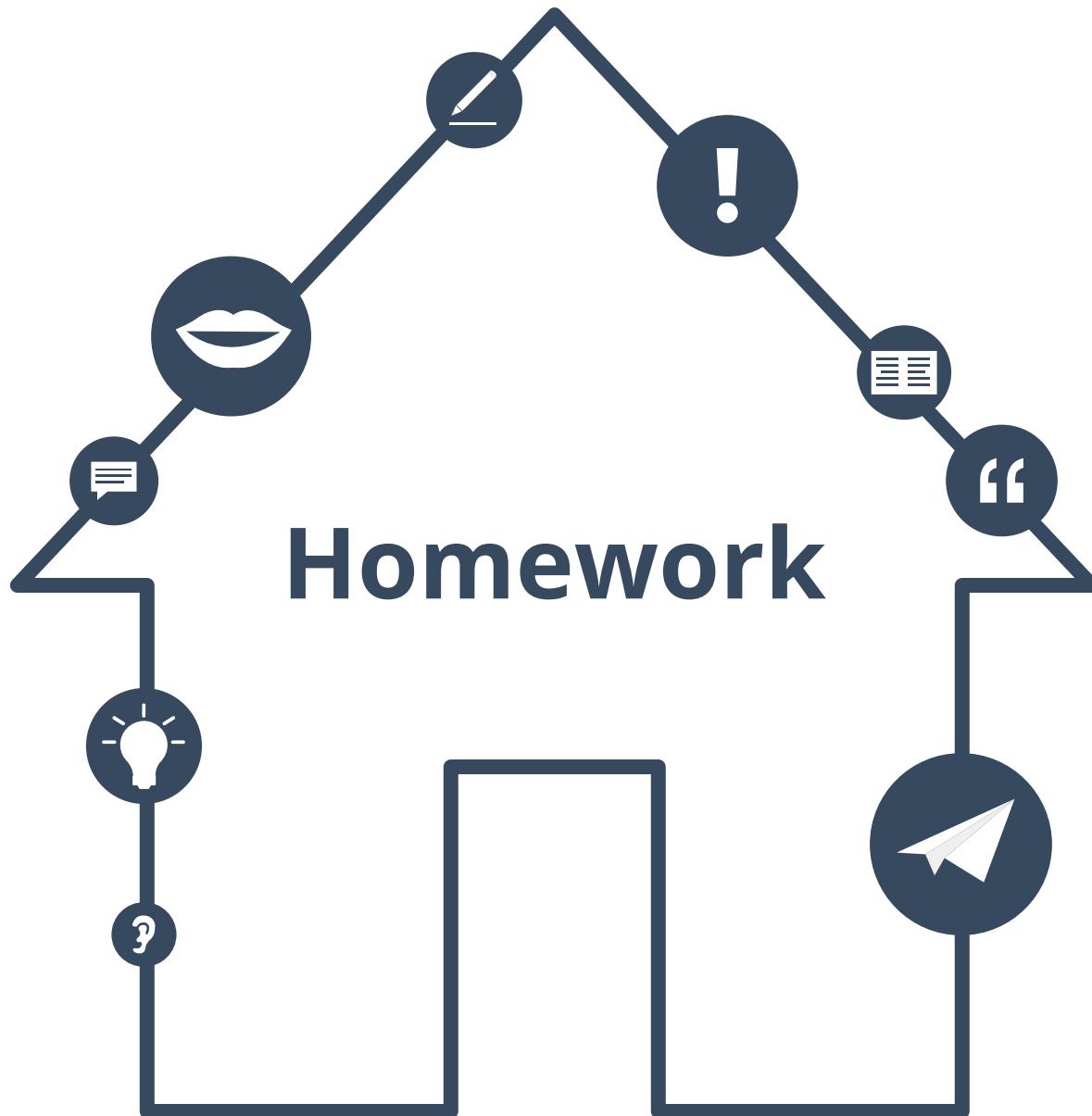
1. The apple never falls far from the tree.
2. She took to it like a duck to water.
3. Life is like a box of chocolates: you never know which one you're going to get.
4. It's like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

### Exercise p. 10

1. Nightmare
2. Sweet as honey

### Exercise p. 30

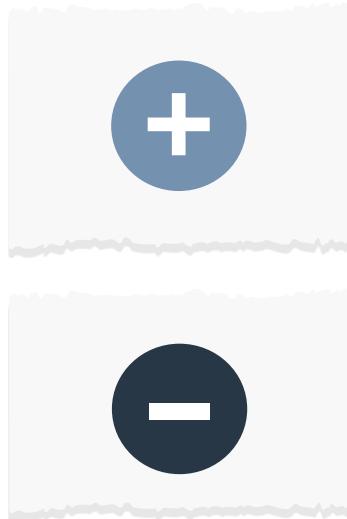
1. Anecdote
2. Analogy - simile
3. Analogy - simile
4. Analogy - metaphor





## Reflect

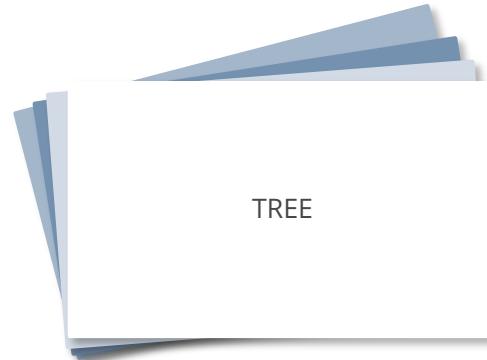
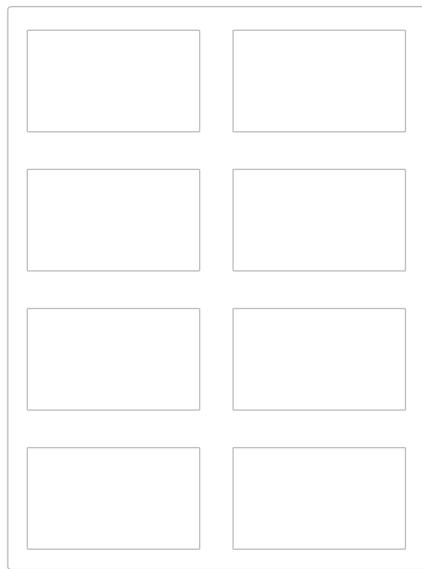
**Why are anecdotes helpful in understanding new concepts or ideas? Evaluate!**

A vertical column of ten small, light gray circles arranged vertically, representing a scale from negative to positive. To the right of this scale is a vertical column of ten horizontal lines, each preceded by a short vertical line, intended for writing responses.



## Think outside the box

**How many examples of tree analogies can you come up with?**





## About this material



Find out more at  
[www.lingoda.com](http://www.lingoda.com)

This material is provided by

**lingoda**

**lingoda** Who are we?



Why learn English online?



What kinds of English classes do we offer?



Who are our English teachers?



How do our English certificates work?



We also have a language blog!