



## **An Introduction to *Analogies***

The **Analogies** technique is a creative and critical thinking strategy which helps students compare two items in order to discover a perceived resemblance or similarity. Analogies can help students to think or write creatively by connecting ideas in unlikely ways. Analogies are a structure for thinking that helps students connect new material to previously learned concepts on a sophisticated level.

### **ACTIVITY** (time required: 30-60 minutes)

1. Share this analogy from the movie *Forrest Gump*: “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re going to get.” Ask students to explain what it means, then discuss how analogies help us see the world in new and unusual ways.
2. Explain to students that analogies can help us understand new concepts by connecting new information to familiar information. Using analogies in our writing captures the interest of our readers and helps them visualize our ideas.
3. Ask students if they can think of an unusual analogy for: Thinking is like \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. (If students have trouble filling in the blank, ask them to compare thinking to a concrete object like a volcano.)
4. Explain that analogies can be expressed in other ways. Complete the first five examples on the “Analogy Relationships” transparency (attached) as a whole group.
5. Distribute the student handout “Analogy Relationships” (attached), and allow students time to work in pairs or small groups to complete the handout.
6. Divide students into groups and assign a subject area to each group (math, science, or social studies). Using the “Sample Subject Analogy” page, students choose three analogies from their assigned subject area to discuss and then explain to the class.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Analogy Relationships

### Things to remember:

**PARTS OF SPEECH** -- If the words in the first pair compares a noun: noun, adjective or verb, or is an adjective : adjective relationship, the second pair should show the same relationship between parts of speech.

**WORD ORDER** – If the first pair expresses a “tool user: tool” relationship (for instance), the second pair must express the same relationship in the same order (tool user first, tool second).

**EXACTNESS** – Sometimes two or more of the given choices would make fairly good sense in the blank. When this happens, you should choose the word or pair of words that most exactly suits the relationship you’re expressing.

1.      **TOOL : OBJECT IT IS USED WITH**      needle : thread :: \_\_\_\_\_
2.      **CATEGORY: EXAMPLE**                      emotion: grief: \_\_\_\_\_
3.      **EFFECT: CAUSE**                              obesity: overeating: \_\_\_\_\_
4.      **CAUSE: EFFECT**                              fire: heat: \_\_\_\_\_
5.      **INCREASING INTENSITY**                      bright: dazzling: \_\_\_\_\_
6.      **DECREASING INTENSITY**                      glare: glow: \_\_\_\_\_
7.      **ACTION: THING ACTED UPON**                      braid: hair: \_\_\_\_\_
8.      **ACTION: SUBJECT PERFORMING ACTION**                      sell: merchant: \_\_\_\_\_
9.      **OBJECT OR PLACE: ITS USER**                      museum: art lover: \_\_\_\_\_
10.      **NOUN: CLOSELY RELATED ADJECTIVE**                      swamp: soggy: \_\_\_\_\_



Transparency

## ANALOGY RELATIONSHIPS

1.    **ANTONYMS**                      **sharp : blunt ::** \_\_\_\_\_
2.    **SYNONYMS**                      **dry : arid ::** \_\_\_\_\_
3.    **PART : WHOLE**                      **page : book ::** \_\_\_\_\_
4.    **WHOLE : PART**                      **automobile : fender ::** \_\_\_\_\_
5.    **TOOL : ITS ACTION**                      **scale : weighs ::** \_\_\_\_\_
6.    **TOOL USER : TOOL**                      **sculptor : chisel ::** \_\_\_\_\_



## Sample Analogies By Subject

### Science:

A seed is like a sculpture because...  
Which constellation is like your best friend?  
Which is more like a book – a cloud or a rainbow?  
How are your friendships like an electrical circuit?  
How is a snowstorm like the Internet?  
Which is lighter – a wish or a cloud?  
Words are like gardens because...  
What would you describe as a “calm explosion?”  
How is photosynthesis like a river?  
The life cycle of \_\_\_\_\_ is like a book because...

### Mathematics:

How is multiplication like tap dancing?  
How is solving a word problem like taking a bath?  
Fractions are like scrambled eggs because...  
How are decimals like the explorations in the New World?  
Which geometric shape is most like you? Explain.  
Which feels more heavy, long division or finding common factors?  
Finding number patterns is like \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.  
What math activity is most like a mountain?  
What math activity is most like a web page?  
The process of division is like a food web because...

### Social Studies:

How is a government like a blueprint?  
How is a colony like a new pair of shoes?  
The Internet is like a printing press because...  
Free expression is like a garden because...  
When are you most like a city?  
The writing of the Declaration of Independence was like the building up of a thunderstorm because...  
General Lee is most like what animal?  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is like the space shuttle because...  
Dancing is like writing history because...  
Beethoven is like Van Gogh because...  
What is an example of a “disjointed connection?”  
What were the unlimited boundaries of the colonies?