

DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION (IX): SIMILES

Activity 1

Fill in the gaps and translate the following similes into Spanish.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. As black as _____ | 16. As thick as _____ |
| 2. As blind as _____ | 17. As poor as _____ |
| 3. As bold as _____ | 18. As quick as _____ |
| 4. As clean as _____ | 19. As slow as _____ |
| 5. As cool as _____ | 20. As strong as _____ |
| 6. As cross as _____ | 21. As sure as _____ |
| 7. As cunning as _____ | 22. As heavy as _____ |
| 8. As different as _____ | 23. As happy as _____ |
| 9. As drunk as _____ | 24. As sweet as _____ |
| 10. As obstinate/stubborn as _____ | 25. As thin as _____ |
| 11. As old as _____ | 26. As ugly as _____ |
| 12. As fat as _____ | 27. As white _____ |
| 13. As like as _____ | 28. As red as _____ |
| 14. As mad as _____ | 29. As deaf as _____ |
| 15. As hard as _____ | |

Activity 2

Fill in the gaps and translate the following idioms into Spanish.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. to eat like a _____ | 4. to work like a _____ |
| 2. to drink like a _____ | 5. to sleep like a _____ |
| 3. to smoke like a _____ | 6. to laugh like _____ |

7. to shake like a _____

KEY

Activity 1

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. As black as pitch/coal/night | Tan negro como el tizón/carbón |
| 2. As blind as a bat | No ver ni torta/ver menos que un gato de escayola |
| 3. As bold as brass | Tener más cara que espalda |
| 4. As clean as a new pin | Tan limpio como una patena |
| 5. As cool as a cucumber | Tan fresco como una lechuga |
| 6. As cross as two sticks | Tener un humor de perros |
| 7. As cunning as a fox | Más astuto que un zorro |
| 8. As different as chalk and cheese | Como la noche y el día |
| 9. As drunk as a lord | Borracho como una cuba |
| 10. As obstinate/stubborn as a mule | Más terco que una mula |
| 11. As old as the hills | Más viejo que Matusalén |
| 12. As fat as a pig | Más gordo que una foca |
| 13. As like as two peas in a pod | Como dos gotas de agua |
| 14. As mad as a hatter / a March hare | Más loco que una cabra |
| 15. As hard as nails / a rock | Tan duro como dos tablas |
| 16. As thick as thieves | Como uña y carne |
| 17. As poor as a church mouse | Extremadamente pobre |
| 18. As quick as a flash | Rápido como un rayo/una bala |
| 19. As slow as a snail | Más lento que una tortuga |
| 20. As strong as an ox/a horse | Tan fuerte como un toro/un roble |
| 21. As sure as I'm standing here | Tan seguro como que 2 y 2 son 4/como que me llamo X |
| 22. As heavy as lead | Tan pesado como una vaca |
| 23. As happy as a lark | Más contento que unas pascuas |
| 24. As sweet as sugar | Más dulce que el almíbar |
| 25. As thin as a rake | Más flaco que un palo |
| 26. As ugly as sin | Más feo que Picío |
| 27. As white as a ghost/sheet/snow | Blanco como el papel/la nieve |
| 28. As red as a beetroot | Más rojo que un tomate / como un tomate |
| 29. As deaf as a post | Más sordo que una tapia |

Comentado [Office1]: From here we've got the collocation *pitch black*, just like *wide open*, *broad daylight*, *stark naked*, etc.

Comentado [Office2]: You may also say *as two peas in a pod*.

Comentado [Office3]: Pronounced /led/, it means "plomo". When going to a petrol station, you might get petrol-free or unleaded petrol ("sin plomo").

Comentado [Office4]: Different meaning. *White as snow* is very positive: i've just had my house painted and it's white as snow again! *White as a ghost/a sheet* means "very pale".

Activity 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. To eat like a horse | Comer como una lima |
| 2. To drink like a fish | Beber como un cosaco |
| 3. To smoke like a chimney | Fumar como un carretero |
| 4. To work/toil like a dog | Trabajar como un esclavo |
| 5. To sleep like a log/top | Dormir como un tronco |
| 6. To laugh like crazy/mad | Partirse/mondarse de risa |
| 7. To shake like a leaf | Temblar como un flan |