

Analogies

Do you know what an **analogy** is? It is a comparison. An analogy shows that a relationship between one pair of words is similar to the relationship between another pair. For example, the relationship between *big* and *large* is similar to the relationship between *small* and *tiny* because both pairs are **synonyms**. The comparison can be expressed with words or with dots. The dots stand for the words *is to* and *as*.

big is to large as small is to tiny **big : large :: small : tiny**

Analogies can show many different relationships in addition to showing synonyms. Some more of those relationships can be found in the chart below.

<p style="text-align: center;">Opposites</p> <p style="text-align: center;">summer : winter :: hot : cold</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cause and Effect</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ice : slip :: sun : burn</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Categories</p> <p style="text-align: center;">canary : bird :: poodle : dog</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Part-to-Whole</p> <p style="text-align: center;">branch : tree :: nose : face</p>

Read this paragraph about tarantulas. Look for an analogy.

If you are a mouse, you want to stay out of the way of a tarantula. That's because a tarantula is to a mouse as a fox is to a chicken. A tarantula comes out at night to hunt. Because it has poor vision, a tarantula searches for its victims by touch. When a

tarantula finds a tasty meal, it bites its victim and releases a paralyzing venom with its large fangs. A tarantula's bite is not deadly to humans, but it does hurt.



Write a cause-and-effect analogy you found in the paragraph.

On the line, write the word that completes the analogy. Then, in each box, identify the kind of analogy you have completed.

sleeves : shirt :: wings : _____

engine airplane clothes

sweater : clothing :: dictionary : _____

book library store

sweet : sour :: soft : _____

tart sugary hard

Tip

To figure out what an analogy means, you must figure out the relationship between the first pair of words.

Then compare the second pair using the same relationship.

Rain Forest Discoveries

Jason peered outside his wooden hut into the darkness of the rain forest's dense growth. The night was as dark as the day had been bright. However, the darkness couldn't dim his happiness at being on vacation in South America with his father.

Jason ran his fingers over the inside of the mosquito netting that surrounded his bed. Then he saw a small, furry, brown spider slowly climbing the wall beside his bed.

His father was snoring in the bed next to him. Jason tiptoed over to the bureau, not wanting to disturb the spider or wake his father. He picked up his father's empty eyeglass case, very slowly moved it above the creature's body, and scooped it up. Now he would have his very own South American pet, a native tarantula.

The next day, Jason and his father were on the river at dawn to see the macaws at the clay bank. Hundreds of these large parrots with blue, green, yellow, and red feathers clung to the clay bank, and Jason watched them with fascination. They flew about and shrieked loudly when provoked. The sight was spectacular, and it was lunchtime before they returned to the hut. Jason immediately checked inside the eyeglass box, but it was empty!

He looked everywhere in the room, in the shower next door, and on the porch outside.

"What are you looking for?" Jason's father asked.

"Um, well," Jason hedged. He was not sure his father would approve of his new acquisition. His father treasured nature the way Jason treasured his coin collection.

"A tarantula, perhaps?" Jason's dad pointed to the spider crawling on the rafter above.

Jason reached up to touch it, but his dad stopped him. "I wouldn't grab that if I were you!" he said. "If that spider gets frightened, it might give you a nasty bite."

"My friend Alex has a tarantula that doesn't bite."

"Alex's tarantula is probably tame. This spider lives in the jungle."

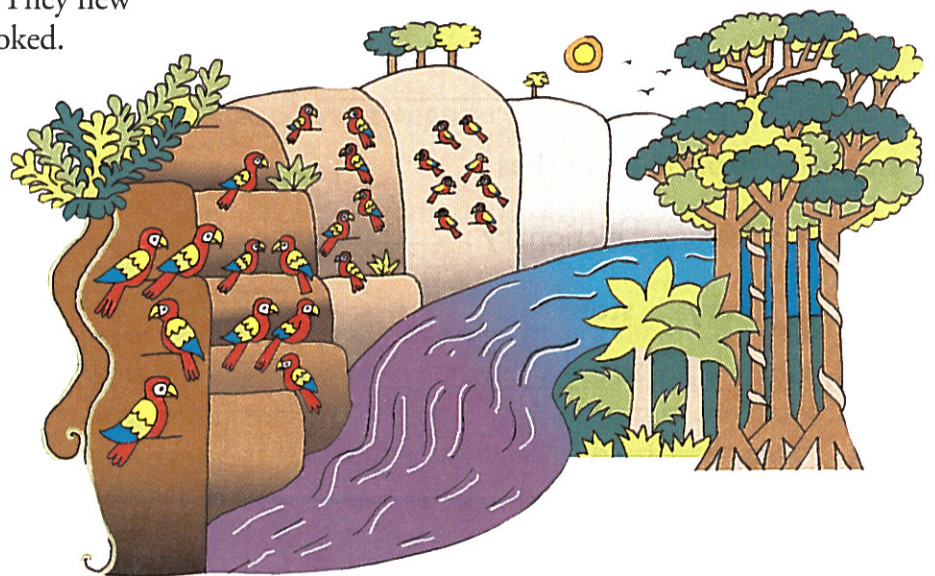
"You mean I can't take it home with me?"

"Think about it. Is it better off here in the rain forest, or locked up in your bedroom?"

Jason thought about his room back home and gazed out at the forest. His father's earnestness convinced him. He said, "I guess I was being thoughtless. To a tarantula, our house would be the same as a prison is to a person."

"Good thinking, Jason," his dad said.

Jason gently placed a piece of cardboard under the spider and ushered it to the safety of a large leaf on the edge of the forest. The spider slowly walked to freedom.



Checking Comprehension

1. Why does Jason agree to let the tarantula go?

2. Why do you think Jason wanted to keep the tarantula as a pet?

Practicing Comprehension Skills

Read the incomplete analogies below. On the line, write the word that completes the analogy. Then, in each box, identify the kind of analogy you have completed: synonyms, categories, opposites, cause and effect, or part-to-whole.

3. empty : full :: big : _____

container enormous small

4. pine forest : North America :: _____ : South America

wood macaws rain forest

5. macaw : parrot :: collie : _____

dog insect doghouse

6. tarantula : bite :: bee : _____

eat sting venom

7. remember : _____ :: bother : disturb

recall sameness forget

8. dawn : sun :: _____ : moon

morning evening clock



9. Finish this analogy from “Rain Forest Discoveries.” Then explain what it means.

house : _____ :: prison : person

Express the following sentences from “Rain Forest Discoveries” as analogies.

10. The night was as dark as the day had been bright.

11. His father treasured nature the way Jason treasured his coin collection.

Practicing Vocabulary

Use the words in the box to fill in the blank in each sentence.

acquisition earnestness fascination happiness hedged provoked ushered

12. Jason _____ the spider to its freedom.

13. He wondered if his father would like his new _____, the tarantula.

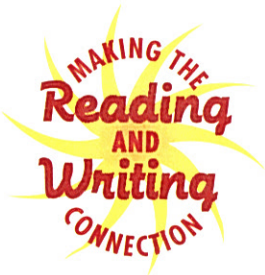
14. Because he didn't know how to answer his dad, Jason _____ his reply.

15. They watched in _____ as the macaws flapped their bright wings.

16. Jason took coin collecting seriously, and his father treated the subject of nature with the same _____.

17. Jason felt intense _____ when he learned he was going on the trip.

18. When the macaws shrieked, you knew something must have _____ them.



Writing a Description

On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph that describes something in nature. In your description, make several comparisons. When you finish, write one of the comparisons as an analogy.