

## Analogy

An analogy (dog is to puppy as cat is to kitten, or, as it commonly appears on standardized tests, especially in higher grades: dog : puppy :: cat : kitten) is a comparison between two things that are usually thought to be different from each other, but have some similarities. They help us understand things by making connections and seeing relationships between them based on knowledge we already possess. Check out the fun Analogies video lessons above to learn more about them!

Analogy is a ubiquitous staple of standardized tests. This type of comparison plays a significant role not only in improving problem solving and decision making skills, but also in perception and memory, as well as communication and reasoning skills. Learning analogy can help with reading and building vocabulary.

### Types of Analogies include:

- Synonym (happy : joyful :: sad : depressed)
- Antonym (inflation : deflation :: frail : strong)
- Characteristic (tropical : hot :: polar : cold)
- Part/Whole (finger : hand :: petal : flower)
- Degree (mist : fog :: drizzle : tropical storm)
- Type (golden retriever : dog :: salmon : fish)
- Tool/Worker (pen : writer :: voice : singer)
- Action/Object (fly : airplane :: drive : car)
- Item/Purpose (knife : cut :: ruler : measure)
- Product/Worker (poet : poem :: baker : pie)

Different types of analogy are introduced at different levels. Elementary school analogy may be simple, possibly funny analogy; whereas middle school analogy may focus more on analogical reasoning. Analogy practiced in high school delve even more deeply into analogical problem solving.

### Analogy vs. Metaphor

Students often confuse analogy with metaphor. Both are comparisons, often involving unrelated objects, so what IS the difference? An analogy is a parallel comparison between two different things, whereas a metaphor is more of a direct comparison between two things, often with one word being used to symbolically represent another. "All the world's a stage. And all the men and women merely players." is an example of a famous metaphor. William Shakespeare is directly comparing the world to a stage, with the people playing "roles" as they go about their daily lives. A comparable analogy would be "Players are to stage as figure skaters are to ice rink."

## Analogy

Analogy is just a term that means "word relationships".

Analogy are sometimes formatted as follows:

[word 1] : [word 2] :: [word 3] : [word 4]

In this analogy format, : reads "is to" and :: reads "as"

This means that

water : liquid :: ice : solid

is read as

Water is to liquid as ice is to solid.

Here are some of the most frequently used analogies:

**Category**

Synonyms

Antonyms

Worker and Tool Used

Tool and Object Its Used Upon

Worker and Object He Creates

Cause and Effect

Effect and Cause

Material Used and End Product

Function of a Tool

Part to Whole

Person and What He Looks For

Person and What He Avoids

Masculine and Feminine

Age

Person and Closely Related Adjective

Person and Least Related Adjective

Symbol and What It Stands For

Mathematical Relationship

Measurement

Classification and Type

Degree of Intensity

**Sample Analogy**

end: terminate

artificial: real

photographer: camera

scissors: paper

poet: poem

negligence: accident

tsunami: earthquake

lumber: house

saw: cut

leaf: tree

mineralogist: ore

student: failure

host: hostess

infant: adolescent

commander: competent

commander: coward

rose: love

seven: forty-nine

mile: distance

dog: greyhound

cold: pneumonia