Understanding Figurative Language

Figurative language (similes, metaphors, etc.) uses images and comparisons to describe something or make the meaning of something clearer.

Here’s an example of figurative language is the phrase “She spun in circles until she was as dizzy as a top.” This is not literal, but is a simile to say she was very dizzy.

Instructions: Underline the metaphor. Rewrite the sentence without the metaphor, but keep the same meaning.

1. Her heart was heavy. It was time to make a decision.

2. The interview lasted a century.

3. She drove the car like a mad woman.

4. The sun shone down and made the day as warm as apple pie.

5. She had so much stuff to do; she was busy as a bee.

6. The computer is a relic. It needs to be replaced.

7. The quilt kept her snug as a bug in a rug.
ANSWER KEY

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Instructions: Underline the metaphor. Rewrite the sentence without the metaphor, but keep the same meaning.

1. Her heart was heavy. It was time to make a decision.
   ___ She had a lot on her mind. It was time to make a decision. _____

2. The interview lasted a century.
   ___ The interview lasted for a very long time. ________

3. She drove the car like a mad woman.
   ___ She drove the car in a crazy and unpredictable manner. _______

4. The sun shone down and made the day as warm as apple pie.
   ____ The sun shone down and made the day very warm. ________

5. She had so much stuff to do; she was busy as a bee.
   ____ She had so much stuff to do; she was very busy and active. _____

6. The computer is a relic. It needs to be replaced.
   ____ The computer is very old. It needs to be replaced. ________

7. The quilt kept her snug as a bug in a rug.
   ____ The quilt kept her warm and cozy. ____________

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