

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. Some droplets are at the top, some at the bottom, and some in the middle. They have highlights and shadows, giving them a 3D appearance.

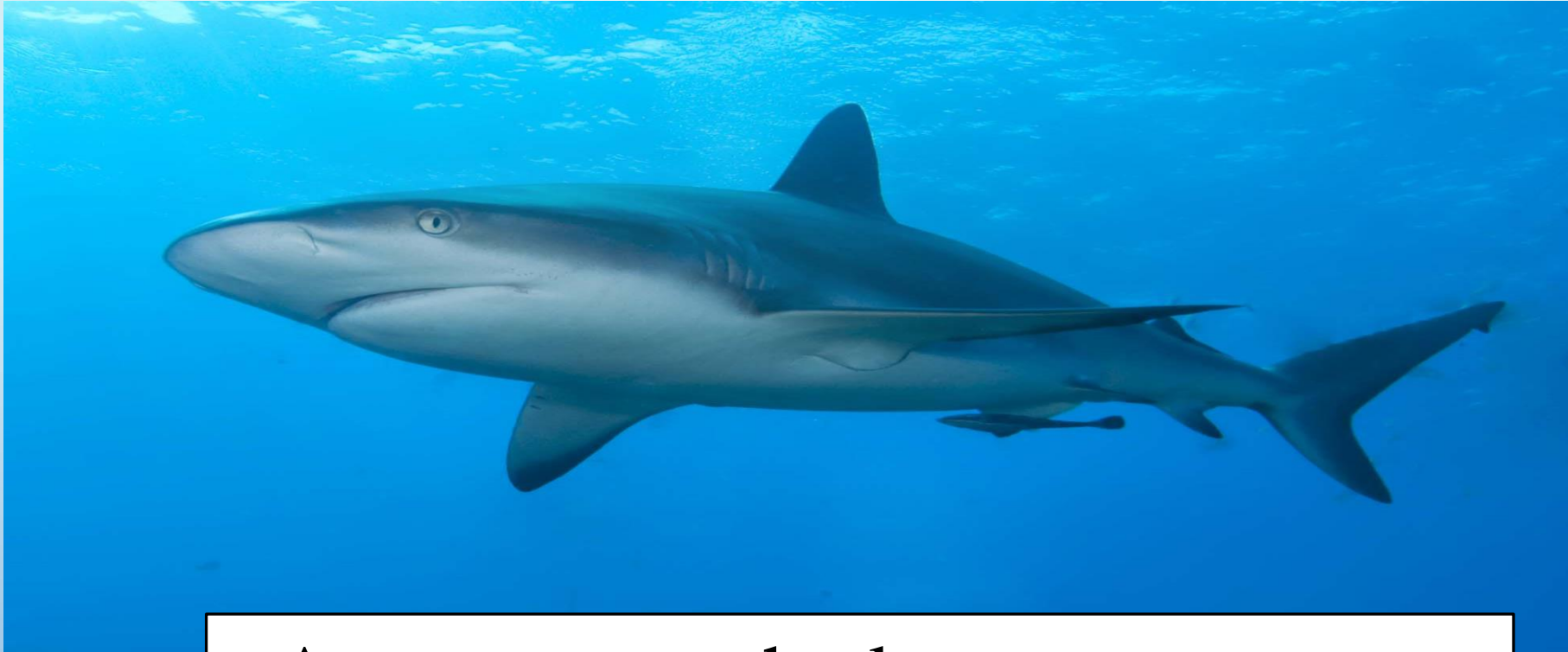
CHECKPOINT ENGLISH – 1

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

1. SIMILE

*A GOOD SIMILE PLANTS AN
IMAGE IN THE READER'S MIND.*

DESCRIBING SOMETHING WITH SIMILES.



- As scary as a shark.
- Eyes like diamonds.
- Teeth as sharp as razors.
- As fast as a rocket.

SADNESS
BY STACY ZEIGER

Sadness is...

As bleak as the sky when it's cloudy and gray

As rough as the sea on a windy day

As tough as the skin on an elephant's trunk

As stinky as the smell of an angry skunk

As dark as the sky on a starless night

And it stings just as much as an animal's bite.

MY FAMILY
BY STACY ZEIGER

My mom is like a fire.

She's always warm, but sometimes she gets too hot.

My brother is like a tornado.

He always moves fast and spreads destruction wherever he goes.

My sister is like a snowstorm.

She's pretty to look at and icy at times, but with a little sunshine, that iciness melts.

Together we are like a partly cloudy day.

We have our moments of darkness and gloom, but the sun always peeks through.

SIMILE OR METAPHOR

- An example of a simile is: She is as innocent as an angel.
- An example of a metaphor is: She is an angel.

METAPHOR

- A metaphor is a figure of speech comparing two unlike things that have something in common. The comparison is made without using like or as.

METAPHOR

- METAPHORS ARE LIKE CONCENTRATED SIMILES.
- IN A METAPHOR TWO DISSIMILAR THINGS ARE COMPARED BUT RATHER THAN SAYING ONE IS LIKE THE OTHER, A METAPHOR GOES A STAGE FURTHER AND MAKES ONE THING BECOME ANOTHER.

A word of warning

Similes can be very effective aids in your imaginative writing; however, if a simile is used too often it tends to lose its effect. For example, the statement ‘The young child was as good as gold’ contains a simile (‘as good as gold’) but the comparison is so common that very few people when reading it think of the precious nature of gold and how this emphasises the value of the child’s behaviour. Overused similes such as this are known as **clichés** and relying on them too much is a sign of lazy writing. Try to avoid doing this at all costs.

Another point to bear in mind when using similes is to make sure that there is always at least one point of comparison between the two objects in the clause and that the simile used is drawing attention to that quality in the first object.

Finally, remember that too many similes in the same paragraph can slow down your writing so it’s usually better to use similes sparingly unless, as in Gerald Durrell’s description of the strawberry-pink villa, you are trying deliberately to create a sense of peace and calm.