

How To Develop Analogies

Introduction You may need some “seed ideas” from which to create effective analogies for your lessons. Your learners will use analogies to bridge the gap between their own experiences and the abstract concepts of your lesson.

Purpose Use this list of potential events as “seed ideas” to create analogies for your lessons.

Procedural action Develop these potential events into analogies.
Note: This alphabetical list continues from first column to second column.

Adopting a baby	Making peace with an enemy
Arranging flowers	Managing a project
Building a house	Performing a magic trick
Colonizing a territory	Planning a vacation
Competing in track	Planting a garden
Conducting an orchestra	Promoting a product
Cooking a meal	Prospecting for gold
Driving a car	Pruning a tree
Fighting a fire	Raising a child
Following a religion	Reading a novel
Giving a speech	Solving a problem
Going fishing	Spreading propaganda
Looking at the stars	Starting a revolution
Making a sales call	Writing a story

Comment Some of the easiest analogies to develop are those that relate something to a familiar event.

Guideline Use events that are familiar to your intended learners, but not so rich in context that learners become distracted from your lesson.

Note: Pioneer educator Madeline Hunter would say,
 “Don’t import an elephant to teach the concept, *gray*.”

More...

More... How To Develop Analogies

Procedural action

Follow these steps to develop your own effective analogies.

Step	Action
1	Choose an event that is familiar to your intended learners. <i>Note:</i> The event should not be so rich in context that it distracts the learners.
2	Compare a relationship between two <i>known</i> elements of the event to a relationship between two <i>unknown</i> elements of your lesson. <i>Note:</i> Some possible relationships are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part to part • Part to whole • Function to function • Function to whole
3	Develop your analogy by filling in the symbols of this formula: A:B::C:D.
4	Read the formula this way: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A is to B as C is to D.” or • “A relates to B in the same way as C relates to D.”

Examples

Three examples and variations for an analogy follow:

A relates to ...	B as ...	C relates to ...	D
Buying a plane ticket	traveling by air	paying course tuition	learning
Planning a flight	traveling by air	planning a lesson	learning
Piloting a jet plane	traveling by air	instructing a course	learning
Learning	air travel	instructing a course	piloting a jet
Learning	instructing a course	traveling by air	piloting a jet
