



HOW TO WRITE LIKE OG THE FROG

If you've read some Humphrey books, you're familiar with the way Humphrey writes. He loves to repeat things three times, yes, he DOES-DOES-DOES! And often confuses the words SQUEAK and SPEAK. He sounds like a small, excitable hamster!

But Og has had a lot more experience outside of the classroom in his former life in the swamp - a colorful place where many strange creatures live. He has a colorful way of talking, too! He's less excitable than Humphrey ... he likes things easy peasy, as he sometimes says. He gets the word HAPPY confused with HOPPY and sometimes jumps for joy. He sounds more like a frog.

Og loves to sprinkle his conversation with similes. A simile (sim-uh-lee) is a way to use words to compare things that aren't alike. Here are a few similes you are familiar with:

- as cool as a cucumber
- as cold as ice
- as cunning as a fox

Similes always use the word like or as to make the comparisons. Here are a few of Og's:

- miserable as a toothless swamp beaver
- sweet as honeysuckle
- as edgy as a duck stuck in the muck

Can you spot the simile in this passage from *Life According to Og the Frog*?

"It's chilly in the swamp - as cold as a snapping turtle's heart. Where's the bright yellow dot in the sky? Where are the nice, juicy insects? And why can't I open my eyes?"

Try your hand at writing similes. The first line contains an expression Humphrey might use. The second line has blanks to fill in words that sound like one of Og's similes. See if you can think of a swamp creature to use in the comparison.



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Humphrey: I was unsqueakably nervous.

Og: I was as nervous as a _____.

Humphrey: All that spinning made me TIRED-TIRED-TIRED.

Og: I was a tired as a _____.

Humphrey: The boys at the party were LOUD-LOUD-LOUD.

Og: Those boys were as loud as a _____.

There's another difference between the way Humphrey and Og tell stories.

Humphrey writes in the past tense. That means he describes events as if they took place sometime in the past.

"She erased the chalkboard and gathered up her papers. I could tell that we'd be going home soon. Suddenly, I began to worry."

Og writes in the present tense. That means he describes events as if they are happening right now.

"I notice that Sayeh doesn't hurry out of the room. Instead, she waits for Tabitha to get to the door. I'm surprised, because Sayeh is shy and doesn't like to talk."

Here's another passage from *The World According to Humphrey*, written in the past tense:
He poked the lock again and again. I knew if he jiggled it enough, the door would swing open and I'd be history.

Can you figure out how Og would write these sentences using present tense?

BING-BANG-BOING! I think you've got it!