

Unit
7

Tim the Trumpet



To look at, Tim was a perfectly ordinary boy. His hair stood on end and his face was never quite clean. His jeans were definitely dusty and his T-shirt always managed to be back to front.

But all this could happen to anyone. What made Tim quite different from anybody else was his voice.

Tim's voice was truly amazing. It was like a cross between a factory hooter and a foghorn. Or perhaps a roll of thunder and a ship's siren. And there was nothing he could do about it. It was just something he had been born with. His parents, of course, noticed his voice right from the start.

When Tim was a baby he would, like any other baby, let out a cry to tell everyone that he wasn't happy. Only it wasn't so much a cry, it was more like – well – an alarm bell going off. It certainly alarmed the neighbours. They used to gather in the street outside the house, and discuss in worried whispers whether they ought to call the police. They were certain something terrible was happening!



Tim's parents had to explain... "It's his voice you see. Tim has this very, very loud voice..."

Even so, when Tim was christened, the Vicar – who had been warned beforehand – wisely wore ear muffs.

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Do you remember?

Copy this paragraph. Fill each gap.

1 _____ seemed a very ordinary boy. His face was never quite
2 _____ and he wore his 3 _____ back to front. He had a very
loud 4 _____. He had had it since he was a 5 _____. It worried
the 6 _____. They thought they should call the 7 _____.
When Tim was christened the 8 _____ wore ear muffs.

More to think about

Write a sentence to answer each question.

- In the story Tim's voice is described as being like other loud noises.
 - What was it like when he was a baby?
 - What noises was it like when he got older?
- Describe what Tim usually looked like.
- Why did the neighbours think they should call the police?
- Did Tim make loud noises because his parents were unkind to him?
- How did the Vicar know he should wear ear muffs?



Now try these

- Sometimes we say things are like, or similar to, other things. When we do this we are using **similes**. Similes often begin with 'like' or 'as'. Copy these sentences, and neatly underline the similes. The first one has been done to help you.
 - Tim's voice was like a foghorn.
 - Tim's mother thought her baby was as pretty as a picture.
 - Some people said Tim's voice was like a ship's siren.
 - When Tim was a baby he sounded as loud as an alarm bell.
 - When Tim was older he could call across the playground as easy as pie.
- Which creature do you think would be a good choice to finish each of these similes?

a) as brave as a _____	f) as happy as a _____
b) as cunning as a _____	g) as slow as a _____
c) as timid as a _____	h) as obstinate as a _____
d) as quiet as a _____	i) as slippery as an _____
e) as fast as a _____	j) as wise as an _____

The animals in the box might help you, but you can also think of your own similes.

	fox	hare	lark
eel	owl	tortoise	mule
rabbit	mouse	lion	