

Using Analogies

The network of blood vessels in your body is like the network of streets and highways in a large city. How are the two networks similar? Both networks are used to transport objects from one location to another. The comparison is an example of an analogy. An analogy uses a similarity to compare two objects or systems. A familiar object is often used to help explain a less familiar object.

1. Atoms in compounds are like bricks in a wall. Explain this analogy.
2. Think of another analogy for atoms in compounds.

ANSWERS

1. Students may say that atoms and bricks are both small units from which larger structures are built.

2. Student answers will vary. Accept all reasonable responses. Possible analogies include corals in a reef, threads in a woven rug, seats in a stadium, or blades of grass in a lawn.