

**as cold as / cold like**

**as hard as /**

**as warm as**

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### **Hypothesis**

Search undertaken for final section of Wilson & Carston (2006) 'Metaphor, relevance and the "Emergent Property" issue.

### **Strategy and Objectives**

To look for cases which seem to involve punning on physical/abstract sense of words like 'cold', 'hard', etc.

### **Chosen word sets**

as cold as / cold like

as hard as /

as warm as

### **Corpus used**

BNC

### **Findings**

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The example you gave me at our last meeting was: 'she was as cold as ice'. Ideally we wanted to find cases like this in varied contexts where 'as cold as ice' would qualify either the subject's physical state or her emotional state.

There seems to be great variety in what a person, voice, gaze etc is seen to be as cold as (i.e. source domain for coldness in the cognitive terms) and also great variety in the object, body part etc to which the property of coldness is attributed=> many of these contexts are one-off occurrences in the BNC corpus:

e.g.

*My lips they are as cold as clay*

or

*The jawbone felt as cold as a joint of beef in a supermarket deep-freeze*

and subsequently we cannot compare how COLD would be fine tuned if these contexts recurred.

However, some contexts of coldness do recur. The concept COLD is fine tuned in different directions just as predicted. We didn't discuss much whether you are interested more in constancy / recurrence of the object described as 'cold' or of the type of coldness (e.g. 'as cold as X') and I have thus distributed the relevant recurring examples found in the BNC in 2 types of table: a) according to constancy in the 'source', b) according to constancy in the 'target'.

**1.A) constancy in the source context: *Ice*  
with varied target contexts**

<i>10. His mind was as cold as the ice forming on the windscreen.</i>	NON PHY
<i>12. she said in a voice as cold as ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>15. Everything is cold to me --; as cold as ice.</i>	NON PHY
<i>19. her small hands were as cold as ice</i>	PHY
<i>26. his manner towards me was as cold as ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>27. He's good and great, but as cold as ice.</i>	NON PHY
<i>34. a feeling that left his body as cold as ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>35. led the trembling girl into his room. She was as cold as ice. He sat her in the armchair and</i>	PHY
<i>39. His eyes were as cold as polar ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>48. he described the planet Saturn as cold as ice, dark as night, and malignant as</i>	PHY
<i>51. like fire in my arms, the next you're as cold as ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>54. his blue eyes suddenly as cold as ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>55. His silvery-green eyes looked as cold as glacial ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>60. Athelstan touched Rastani's hand which was as cold as ice</i>	PHY

=> variation in the object described as cold causes fine tuning of the concept COLD in the different directions of either physical or non physical coldness

**1.B) constancy in the target context: *eyes*  
with // constancy in the source context: *Ice***

<i>39. His eyes were as cold as polar ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>54. his blue eyes suddenly as cold as ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>55. His silvery-green eyes looked as cold as glacial ice</i>	NON PHY

=> in the context of 'eyes' the concept COLD is used only in the non physical sense.

**1.C) Constancy in the target context: *body or body part*  
with // constancy in the source context: *Ice***

<i>19. her small hands were as cold as ice</i>	PHY
<i>34. a feeling that left his body as cold as ice</i>	NON PHY
<i>60. Athelstan touched Rastani's hand which was as cold as ice</i>	PHY

=> in the context of 'body' or some body part further contextual clues cause fine tunings of COLD in either direction i.e. in the sense of physical and non physical coldness

**1.D) Constancy in the target context: person described as cold  
with // constancy in the source context: Ice**

27. <i>He's good and great, but as cold as ice.</i>	NON PHY
35. <i>led the trembling girl into his room. She was as cold as ice. He sat her in the armchair and</i>	PHY
51. <i>like fire in my arms, the next you're as cold as ice</i>	NONPHY

=> here, again, a person is consistently described as 'cold' but further contextual clues enable us to vary the interpretation of 'cold' towards the sense of physical and non physical coldness

**2.A) constancy in the target context: Voice  
with varied source contexts**

2. <i>and when she spoke her voice was as cold as her face</i>	NON PHY
13. <i>she said in a voice as cold as ice</i>	NON PHY
16. <i>His own voice was low and as cold as steel</i>	NON PHY
17. <i>the Duke's voice was as cold as a sword in winter</i>	NON PHY
43. <i>his voice as cold as the Arctic snows</i>	NON PHY

=> in the context of 'voice' the concept COLD is used only in the non physical sense

I looked at 'cold+like X' hoping to find more examples of fine tunings of coldness but as you can see in the following lists not much came up in that search.

The examples of 'as hard as' (adj) where not as varied or interesting.

I also tried a search with another non strictly defined adjective ('as warm as') but again the results didn't seem to me as interesting as the ones from 'as cold as'. I have included the examples below for you to go through if you want.

**Search**

[Based on BNC, examples numbered according to Mark Davies' website]

**AS COLD AS**

CLICK WORD TO SEE IN CONTEXT [DISTRIB] FOR FREQUENCY IN ALL 70 REGISTERS			DON'T SHOW PART OF SPEECH [HELP IN INTERPRETING THIS VIEW]
DISTRIB	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS REG1	PER MIL IN REG1 [100,000,000 WORDS]
1	AS COLD AS	63	0.63

- 1 A7A another frantic leap. Ice fishing, I find, is as cold as anything I have ever tried in the Arctic, and after
- 2 **AA0** marmoreal face, and **when she spoke her voice was as cold as her face.** "You were drunk." "Er
- 3 AC5 the veteran striker. Understandably on an East Lancashire **night as cold as a tomb**, Scunthorpe took a
- 4 ADA open all day to destroy the germs. It was as cold as an old grave. Dot stood by the open window.
- 5 AHG , blow, thou winter wind. This room is as cold as a cabin in the frozen woods, but it is not

6 ALJ but in the chilly winters when the place can get as cold as the Cotswolds without the central heating. H  
7 AM6 and turned on the lights. The fridge was not as cold as it ought to have been. "Bacon, I suppose  
8 APC the first performance, he would be worn out and as cold as marble at the third. (p. 14) According to Tol  
9 ARK of the case upon case of battered gold left me as cold as the side chapels of Europe with their  
trésors de la cathédrale  
10 AS7 sat immobile as a waxwork figure. His mind was as cold as the ice forming on the windscreen. Th  
11 B1X ; and high-modulus, high-strength aerospace technology leaves me about as cold as deep-froze  
Arctic char. A proper fishing-rod is built of either  
12 CCW want to know," she said in a voice as cold as ice, "is when do I cease to be your  
13 CDX , with the moisture beading the shrouds and the air as cold as charity, and always being terrified that a  
14 CEW Arab part, they regarded the British as unfeeling, as cold as the weather but clever and efficient.  
15 CJF his wife. "Everything is cold to me --; as cold as ice." Torn between his longing to be home again  
16 CMP remember that." His own voice was low and as cold as steel. "I'm sorry. I thought from the  
17 EED "Lieutenant Webster," the Duke's voice was as cold as a sword in winter, "four horses instantly to tl  
18 EVC steam was admitted, the cylinder were to be made as cold as possible. These two opposite conditions  
19 EVC as a feather to carry and her small hands were as cold as ice. He hadn't noticed before just how thir  
20 EWB well-named, for the hall was bleak and comfortless and as cold as winter in High Tor. Her first sight of  
21 FP3 that is all I crave. My lips they are as cold as clay, My breath be heavy and strong, If you  
22 FPB had comforted himself with the thought that it was not as cold as it was outside where many of the anir  
23 FPP placed on her white horseshoe-shaped desk. She suddenly felt as cold as the raw wind of March  
that swept the streets of London  
24 FR0 cried, but they saw no one. Their faces were as cold as death, and salty and wet from the sea. The  
25 FR6 n't the temperature killed her? Perhaps it wasn't as cold as it seemed to her distorted senses. She gasp  
26 FR6 !" From then on his manner towards me was as cold as ice, which caused me great pain. I began to  
27 G03 love him. He's good and great, but as cold as ice. You needn't be jealous, sir. All  
28 G0A somebody who'd dived into Caribbean waters and found them as cold as Arctic slush. Carson p  
29 G0L room, away from the window, and so not quite as cold as Gav's in the winter. I fell into it,  
30 G1M coat properly now as would be expected on a night as cold as this. Kragan turned right outside the hot  
31 G1W coping with it the best of all of them. as cold as ice-water. "Any sign of slowing yet?" &quote  
32 GUF insides of his fingers along the radiator. It was as cold as a glass of lager. "Fucking shit," he  
33 GUF the hill out of the village. It didn't feel as cold as it had done earlier in the day. He stopped to  
34 GUF was the shock, a feeling that left his body as cold as ice, and sent these involuntary convulsions  
through him. He  
35 GUU led the trembling girl into his room. She was as cold as ice. He sat her in the armchair and lit the  
36 GUU walk to the gazebo, get himself killed and become as cold as he was. There was only one explanation.  
37 GV8 and the cuff of his coat. The jawbone felt as cold as a joint of beef in a supermarket deep-freeze. The t  
38 H7W And later, falling finally into sleep with her heart as cold as a snowball in her chest, she thought: at l  
39 H7W property owned by my companies." His eyes were as cold as polar ice, his mouth a brutal slash. The  
40 H84 voice had a chilling softness. His blue-grey eyes were as cold as a Siberian winter, and Polly felt as  
41 H8J called to him once more. "You think I am as cold as stone," he said. "Many do. That  
42 H8J he pulled the gown round her roughly, his eyes as cold as stones. "You're a liar and a hypocrite,  
43 H8U brother-in-law's address," he said, his voice as cold as the Arctic snows. She stole a glance at him;  
44 H94 in early spring, as the running water was not as cold as the grass itself. This system was well develop  
45 H94 imperviously, not moving a single muscle. He was as cold as the stone she sat on, she thought  
forlornly. Any

46 H97 ?" he asked tightly. His black **eyes turned as cold as stone**. "Granny's little extortion racket must have  
47 H98 Lisa was aware of **eyes as black as ebony and as cold as the sea bed**. For an instant she let her ga  
48 H9C continued, "in which **he described the planet Saturn as cold as ice**, dark as night, and malignant as  
49 HA5 Lady Prioress is no longer needed and Ranulf must be getting as cold as I am." She waved her hand, l  
50 HGT mouth held in a taut beautiful line, **his eyes as cold as an arctic glacier** as he encouraged her to con  
51 HTL **like fire in my arms, the next you're as cold as ice**. Can't you handle it --; is that the  
52 J19 , hi, Angel. Christ, but it's as cold as a witch's tit back there, ever thought of investing  
53 JXS didn't even flicker. It was as impassive, as cold as ever. She flapped her sketch pad shut. "If  
54 JY2 watch her across the table, **his blue eyes suddenly as cold as ice**. "I think we both know the answer  
55 JY7 " "Very alike." **His silvery-green eyes looked as cold as glacial ice**. "Then you knew all along that the  
56 JY7 stroked across her cheek. **Perhaps you are not as cold as you seem, cara**. "Here's an American  
57 K5F best handle by ignoring it." **His eyes turned as cold as his voice**. "I assure you, Caroline, when  
58 K93 of Glasgow's lesser-used venues --; larger than Tramway and as cold as the Harland & Wolff shipyard.  
59 K95 "The last record was" "They weren't as cold as we were" "DO", "DOES" Notes  
60 KCS Cranston barked. **Athelstan touched Rastani's hand which was as cold as ice**. The friar gazed into  
61 KE6 are you this morning Mrs? Shivering It isn't as cold as it was though is it? Damp int it? Aye  
62 KP6 the right time to do it in the wind, as cold as this, is it really? I mean we're gon  
63 KP6 very Cos we're stupid. It's not actually as cold as normal today. No because when it's erm snowing it

<b>COLD LIKE</b>
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DISTRIB	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS REG1	PER MIL IN REG1 [100,000,000 WORDS]
1	COLD LIKE	10	0.10

1 C8D wouldn't be sorry to get out of this house. It was cold like all empty houses were. As they came out of th  
2 EFN and Gladys swung round. "Hello. You'll catch cold like that." The older women indicated Meryl's state of  
3 F99 abrasive like Birkenhead, or pompous like Curzon or even olympianly cold like Balfour. He must  
speak from the heart. And there  
4 G0Y a moment the laughter had melted into **song, clear and cold like raindrops** tracking a windowpane. F  
5 G17 . From one week to the next. Blowing hot and cold like that. Time to put it to him, fair and  
6 HH0 leaves of the trees, but it was warm, not cold like the winds of winter. Jehan glanced at Jehana to see  
7 K4T confidence he doesn't fully believe in. Doug chatters with cold like a little monkey, and Bill looks darkly t  
8 K5C . He also didn't have to queue outside in the cold like the rest of us. The re-opening of the NRM,  
9 KB1 rebuilt MZ with the chrome mudguard. And there is no cold like motorcycle cold, no rain like an MZ rain  
10 KB1 me. But I'm not going out with a bloody cold like this! I never have no time off anyway. He

<b>AS WARM AS</b>
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DISTRIB	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS REG1	PER MIL IN REG1 [100,000,000 WORDS]
1	AS WARM AS	29	0.29

1 ADS , swam in the Humber (which, strangely, was as warm as bathwater and a dazzling, transparent blue),  
2 B1C outside and in spite of a roaring fire the room was not as warm as he was used to, she felt her hand p  
3 B2W But you remember swooping into spring; you remember liquid as warm as light. You remember last ye  
4 BNL of grooms ... with a view of keeping their horses as warm as possible by the exclusion of air, to close t  
5 BNL With any virus, going to bed, making yourself as warm as possible, sleeping and drinking plenty of fruit  
6 BNL thing left if your house or flat is still not as warm as you would like is wall insulation. Cavity walls can b  
7 BNL change homes the first thing I do is make it as warm as possible. This often means great economy too  
8 EC8 dressing warmly in several loose layers, keeping the home as warm as possible, taking frequent warm  
9 ED1 , reflective Marco. He offers to Samavia a loyalty as warm as Marco's but deriving partly from hero-w  
10 ED1 be found in this corner of Austria is every bit as warm as it's reputed to be. From swimming in one of  
11 EED Cologne you'll find the welcome extended to visitors is as warm as a schnapps downed in one. Culinar  
12 F9F used a cylinder closed at both ends to keep it as warm as possible. Therefore Newcomen's method of  
13 F9H at the side of the nest may not be quite as warm as those in the centre. Furthermore, she has to turn  
14 FEB there were no ice floes around today. It was as warm as summer, the temperature an amazing 15.5° C  
15 FP1 chosen for it should be as sunny, well-drained and as warm as possible, preferably hot. Cloves can be  
16 FPF Tourists and yet, if caught, he would be as warm as an old friend. He was fluent, learned, a  
17 FS8 "You should wear a sweater, it's not as warm as you think." "No, but it's sun  
18 G1E . Outside, the sky was dusky-black and the air as warm as wool. A shooting star fell towards the city's c  
19 G33 3&ndash;4°C lower. Nine thousand years ago they were about as warm as today, though there was n  
20 H07 an inner lining of Windstopper, but it is not as warm as an equivalent one with a windproof outer. Many  
21 H0R . A beach in your backyard If this summer is as warm as last year's, we'll all be spending a lot  
22 H7F just one of the little ones. When it's as warm as it is tonight, you'll be able to leave the  
23 H97 bed, warm it up nice. You'll be as warm as toast. " " Hot bricks? Is that all you  
24 HH8 colossal mackerel." Vass smiled a slow smile, as warm as a winter's morning. "In that case, beware  
25 KAG Nothing more, I promise." His smile was as warm as the sun. It beckoned --; cajoled. "Please,  
26 KBM Even the weather co-operated, but could not have been as warm as the welcome extended to us by s  
27 KE3 No you've got a week it won't be as warm as it is in the April Well perhaps if we will,  
28 KSS I are they not very warm? They're not as warm as a sweatshirt. No are any the same You you're  
29 KSS your cocoa well I've had mine now it's as warm as house out there you wan na see this one with locati

DISTRIB	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS REG1	PER MIL IN REG1 [100,000,000 WORDS]
1	AS HARD AS POSSIBLE	14	0.14
2	AS HARD AS LEFT-OVER	1	0.01
3	AS HARD AS GERMAN	1	0.01
4	AS HARD AS GAY	1	0.01
5	AS HARD AS CONCRETE	1	0.01
6	AS HARD AS BAKED	1	0.01

1 A7W I've shown, SCF makes sure that your donation works as hard as possible for the children that need i

2 ABR . "The measure as revised by the committee tried as hard as possible to accommodate the views of tr  
3 B1Y to correct the disparity between the teams was to practise as hard as possible, especially as the Wes  
4 C8P gas masks. A favourite trick was to breathe out as hard as possible, to make the rubber at the side of  
5 CDT is for all the people to pull on the rope as hard as possible. However, instead of pulling the other tear  
6 CEG to him, I suddenly brought my knee up, as hard as possible, into his crutch. My hands, face and  
7 CEP a blacksmith's anvil and smitten with a heavy hammer as hard as possible; if it breaks it is not a true c  
8 CKB , and Brian McClair intend to make Ferguson's decision as hard as possible. Hughes said: "Eric's a qu  
9 CNK about accepting? Honestly, he wanted life to be as hard as possible. I think he even thought that wha  
10 FA6 and the workers' function to make management's life as hard as possible would argue otherwise. Nor  
11 HDP seem to get the wrong results even though I'm working as hard as possible. The real problem was the  
12 J1G people are protected. We must ensure that we campaign as hard as possible, that sixty becomes the  
13 J1G either side on Gray, as opposed to trying to kick it as hard as possible ... straight at gray. Sunderland  
14 J1G the very next statement that they always just kicked it as hard as possible into the air. He was then as

1 A9T Ebenezer Scrooge, the greedy, grasping grouch with a heart as hard as left-over Christmas as pud. Colin

1 CR9 If John Patten introduces such a system British children will work as hard as German children and a rea

1 C9S provision for men, women have had to struggle every bit as hard as gay men a few years earlier, to can

1 AMB rugby, especially on cold winter mornings when the ground was as hard as concrete and the snow lay

1 BNU was bitterly cold. The mud on the path was frozen as hard as baked clay. Snow from the last fall. sever