A hyperbole is an exaggerated statement that is not meant to be taken literally.

example: Keith has a ton of homework tonight.

Of course, if Keith put his homework on a scale and weighed it, it wouldn’t really weigh a ton (2,000 pounds). This sentence is an exaggeration that shows he has lots of homework.

Tell whether each sentence uses hyperbole. Write hyperbole or not hyperbole on each line.

1. ________________________________ I have a million things to do today.
2. ________________________________ Harold ate a large sandwich for lunch.
3. ________________________________ Mary will be back in just a second.
4. ________________________________ Ken will be back in about an hour.
5. ________________________________ When Jamie told us the joke, we nearly died laughing.
6. ________________________________ My grandmother will turn 67 years old tomorrow.
7. ________________________________ My mother is always working.
8. ________________________________ Notre Dame has a terrific football team this year.

Rewrite each sentence. Add hyperbole to your new sentence.

9. Uncle Larry is very smart.
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

10. My friend is a fast runner.
    ________________________________
    ________________________________
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Rewrite each sentence. Add hyperbole to your new sentence.

9. Uncle Larry is very smart. Answers will vary.
   Two possible answers: Uncle Larry is a genius.
   Uncle Larry is the smartest man in the world.

10. My friend is a fast runner. Answers will vary.
    Two possible answers: My friend runs as fast as lightning.
    My friend runs so fast that all I see is a blur when she goes by.