

FIGURES OF SPEECH

LITERARY DEVICES

POETIC DEVICES

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Language that has meaning beyond the literal meaning; also known as “figures of speech.”

SIMILE

is an expression comparing one thing to another using the words “like” or “as”.

Examples:

He ran like a cat, lightly and quietly.

Her blue mood passed as quickly as an afternoon rain shower.

Similes Examples



as quiet as a mouse

as timid as a rabbit



as graceful as a swan



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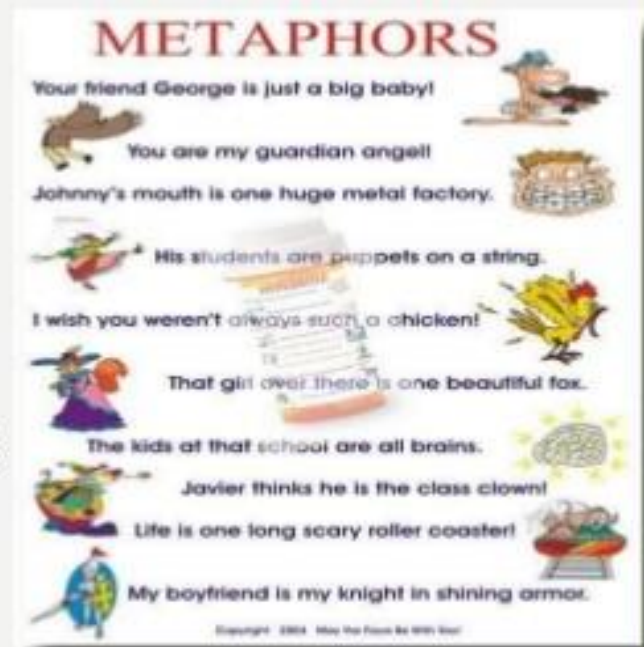
METAPHOR

is a comparison of two unlike things without using the words “like” or “as”.

Examples:

He was a statue, waiting to hear the news.

She was a mother hen, trying to take care of everyone around her.



PERSONIFICATION

is when a writer gives human qualities to animals or objects.

Examples:

My car drank the gasoline in one gulp.

The cat laughed.

The newspaper headline glared at me.



ALLITERATION

is the repetition of the same consonant sound in words occurring near one another.

Examples:

- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
- Sally sells seashells by the seashore.
- Come and clean the chaos in your closet.
- The big, bad bear scared all the baby bunnies by the bushes.
- Shut the shutters before the banging sound makes you shudder.
- Go and gather the green leaves on the grass.

Penrith Panthers
Busy as a bee
Best Buy
Round and round the
rugged rocks the ragged
rascal ran.

OXYMORON

two opposite terms.

Examples:
a peaceful war
a generous cheapskate
dark sunshine



tragic comedy

unbiased opinion

only
choice

virtual reality

definite maybe

original
copies

PARADOX

reveals something true which at first seems **contradictory**.

Examples:

- **He was a brave coward.**
- **When you win all the time, you lose.**
- You can save money by spending it.
- I know one thing; that I know nothing.
- This is the beginning of the end.
- Deep down, you're really shallow.



HYPERBOLE

is an obvious exaggeration or
overstatement.

Examples:

I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!

HYPERBOLE IS
the **BEST**
THING EVER!

Hyperbole

A deliberate, extravagant,
and often outrageous
exaggeration.

"The shot heard 'round the
world."

ONOMATOPOEIA

is a word that imitates the sound it represents.

Examples:

crunch

zap

tick-tock

whoosh



ALLUSION

is a casual reference to a famous historical or literary figure or event.

Examples:

- If it doesn't stop raining, I'm going to build an ark.
- My sister has so many pets I'm going to call myself Old McDonald.
- I was surprised his nose was not growing like Pinocchio's.
- When she lost her job, she acted like a Scrooge, and refused to buy anything that wasn't necessary.
- Chocolate was her Achilles' heel.



SYMBOLISM

is using an object or action that means something more than its literal meaning.

Examples:

- Pink - the fight against breast cancer
- The Statue of Liberty – freedom
- Roses stand for romance.
- Violets represent shyness.
- Lilies stand for beauty and temptation.
- Chrysanthemums represent perfection.

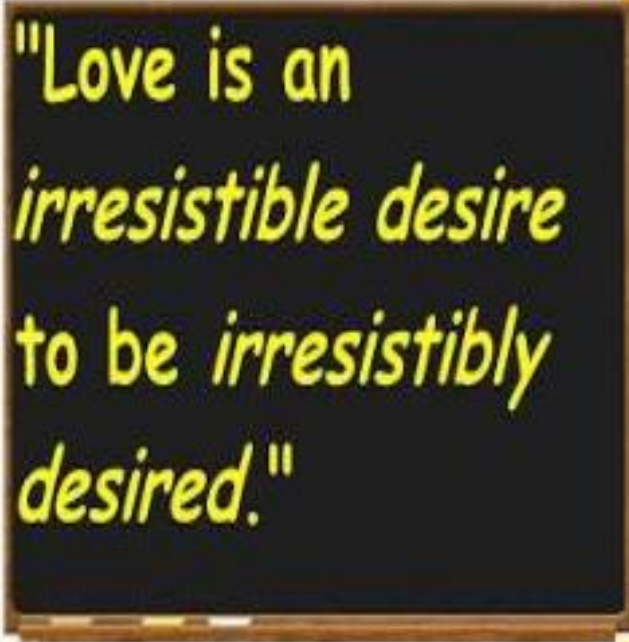


ANAPHORA

In writing or speech, the deliberate repetition of the first part of the sentence in order to achieve an artistic effect is known as **Anaphora**.

EXAMPLE

- “**Every** day, **every** night, in **every** way, I am getting better and better.”
- “**My life** is my purpose. **My life** is my goal. **My life** is my inspiration.”



"Love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired."

Pun

A play on words that are identical or similar in sound but have a sharply diverse meanings.

When Mercutio is bleeding to death in *Romeo and Juliet*, he says to his friends, "Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find a *grave* man."

PUN

is a humorous play on words, often involving double meanings

Examples:

- A man stole a case of soap from the corner store. He made a clean getaway.
- I really wanted a camouflage shirt, but I couldn't find one.
- The grammarian was very logical. He had a lot of comma sense.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.
- A pessimist's blood type is always B-negative.



Enjambment

When a line breaks before the end of the sentence.

Example:

No enjambment: So much depends upon a red wheel barrow.

With enjambment: So much depends upon
a red wheel barrow.

EUPHEMISM

is a polite word or phrase used in place of one that may be too direct, unpleasant, or embarrassing.

Examples:

- pass away = die
- let go = fired
- pre-owned/preloved = used
- Pregnancy termination instead of abortion
- On the streets instead of homeless
- Differently-abled instead of handicapped or disabled
- Fell off the back of a truck instead of stolen
- Disabled/handicapped to physically challenged
- fat to vertically challenged
- ignorant to mentally challenged
- poor to working class
- remedial to developmental



CLICHÉ

is an expression that has lost its power or originality from overuse.

Examples:

talking a mile a minute

quiet as a mouse

easy as pie

They all lived happily ever after

Read between the lines

Fall head over heels

Waking up on the wrong side of the bed



APOSTROPHE

In literature, apostrophe is a figure of speech sometimes represented by an exclamation, such as “Oh.” A writer or speaker, using apostrophe, speaks directly to someone who is not present or is dead, or speaks to an inanimate object.

EXAMPLE

*“Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand?
Come, let me clutch thee!
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.”*

- Feet, don't fail me now.
- Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are.

Rhyme Scheme

a repeated
pattern of rhymed
words at the end
of the line

Ben Heine - 2009

SAMPLE RHYME SCHEME



The Germ by Ogden Nash

A mighty creature is the germ ,	a
Though smaller than the pachyderm .	a
His customary dwelling place	b
Is deep within the human race .	b
His childish pride he often pleases	c
By giving people strange diseases .	c
Do you, my poppet, feel infirm ?	a
You probably contain a germ .	a

ASSONANCE

This figure of speech is similar to alliteration because it also involves repetition of sounds. But this time it's vowel sounds that are being repeated. Assonance creates internal rhyming within phrases or sentences by repeat vowel sounds that are the same

- **EXAMPLES**
- "On a proud round cloud in white high nigh
- "Fire at the private eye hired to pry in my business"
- "It beats . . . as it sweeps . . . as it cleans!"
- "I must confess that in my quest I felt depressed and restless."
- "Hear the mellow wedding bells" by Edgar Allen

Assonance

The repetition of accented vowel sounds in a series of words.

The words "cry" and "side" have the same vowel sound, so if you used them together they would be in assonance.

Assonance

the devices poets use to make their poems pleasing to the ear.



Assonance The repetition of vowel sound in words like **rain**, **makes**, **pavement**, and **wavy**.

Our noses, Our toes, take hold on the loam"

Consonance

- The repetition of consonant sound in close succession within a line or lines of a poem
 - sounds can be *anywhere in the words*
 - The **s**nake **s**ilently **s**lithered across**ss** the grass**ss**.
 - The repetition of the “s” sound appears at different places in the words, not just the beginning.

Imagery




Imagery refers to descriptive language that evokes sensory experience...



Imagery can be visual:
“a blinding sun.”

Imagery can also be auditory:
“the chiming of the bells.”





Imagery can appeal to
taste:
“the bland taste of
starchy bananas.”

The way something smells

Example: As I walked into my house after school, I was met with the delicious scent of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies.

Olfactory Imagery





sight

The tiny red ant
climbed up the
broken twig.

smell



The sweet smell of
freshly baked apple
filled the air.

taste



One bite of the
sour lemon caused
my lips to pucker.



sound

The car squeaked
every time I hit
a bump in the road.

touch



The sharp edge of
the paper cut my
finger and made
it sting.

Types of Imagery

Auditory

Describes what we hear:

- Music
- Noise
- Silence

Visual

Describes what we see:

- Colors
- Patterns
- Shapes
- Size

Tactile

Describes what we touch or feel:

- Texture
- Movement
- Temperature

Gustatory

Describes what we taste:


- Sour
- Sweet
- Acidic
- Bitter
- Salty

Olfactory

Describes what we smell:

- Nice fragrances
- Bad odors



A close-up photograph of a dog's face, heavily covered in snow. The dog's fur is brown and black, and the snow is piled up on its nose and around its eyes. The image is framed by a black border.

Imagery can
arouse the sense
of touch:
“snow falling on
your nose.”

IDIOM

is an expression with a meaning different from the literal meaning of the words.

Examples:

I got cold feet before my speech
= was scared

my boss gave me the green light
= my boss said yes

draw the curtains =
close the curtains

put the lights out =
turn off the lights



And Amelia Bedelia
put the lights out.
"So those things need
to be aired out, too.
Just like pillows and babies.
Oh, I do have a lot to learn."



Irony

Irony is the use of words that mean the opposite of what you really think especially in order to be funny.

Example:

- "This is my brilliant son who failed out of college."
- She's a great singer who sings like a crow.





**YOUR IN AMERICA
SPEAK ENGLISH**

Paradox

In which a statement appears to contradict itself

- **Example:**
- "War is Peace."
- "Freedom is slavery."
- "Ignorance is strength."
- My weakness is my strength.



synecdoche:

a figure of speech in which a part of something is used to represent the whole thing

Examples:

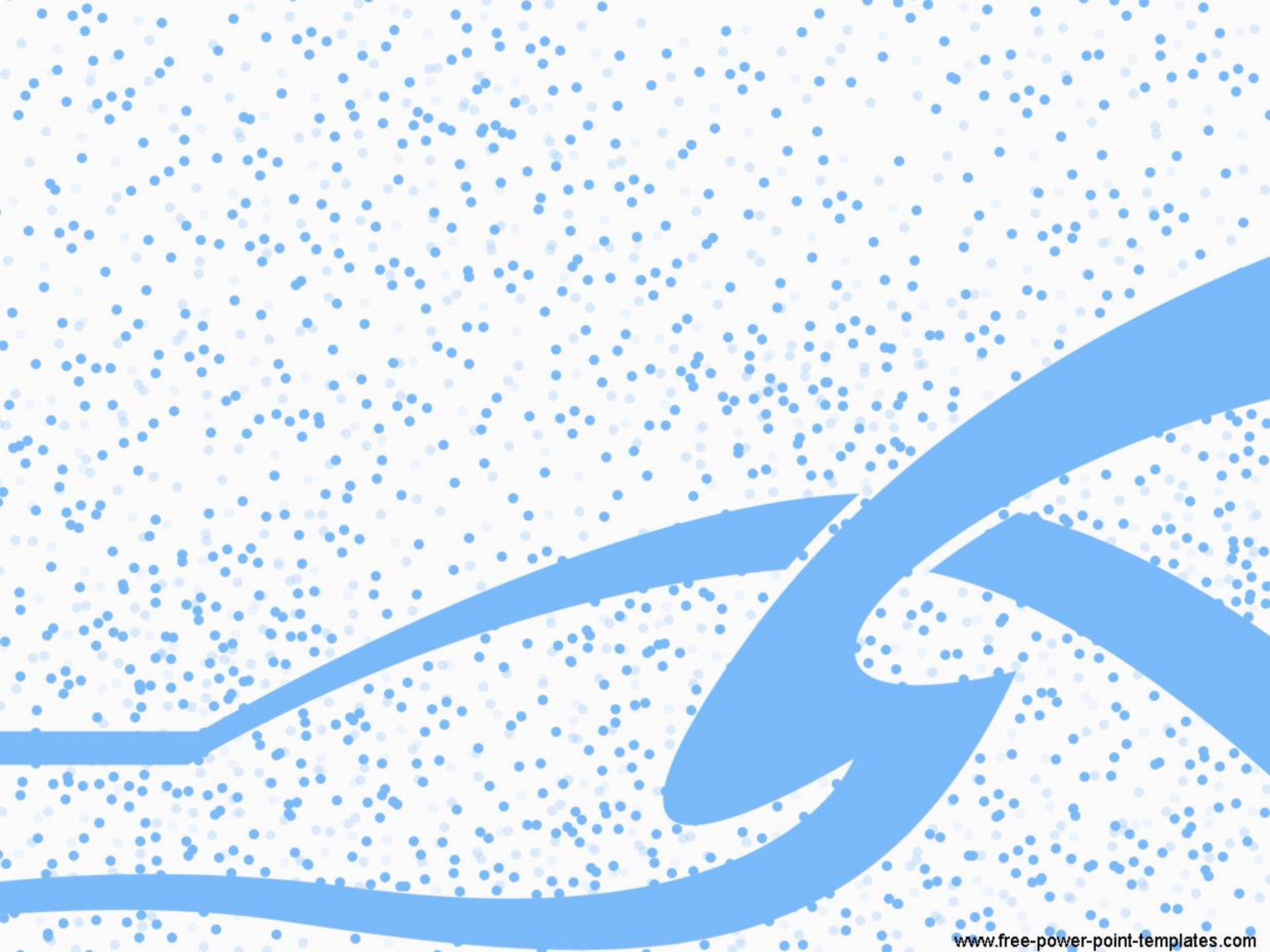


I have four *mouths* to feed at home.

Translation:

"I have four family members to feed at home."

Mouths (the part) is used to represent *people* (the whole thing).



“BEAUTY ISN'T ABOUT
HAVING A PRETTY
FACE. IT'S ABOUT
HAVING A PRETTY
MIND, A PRETTY
HEART, AND A
PRETTY SOUL.”

