

Figurative Language

Figurative Language is language that means something other than what is literally meant by the words. It's used in certain types of writing to help convey meaning and expression in a vivid and artistic manner.

Alliteration: Repeated consonant sounds at the beginnings of words.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Assonance: Repeated vowel sounds within words.

The June moon loomed over the horizon.

Cliché: An expression that has been overused to the extent that it loses its original meaning or novelty.

head over heels / like a hot knife through butter / lost track of time

Euphemism: The substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant.

"previously owned" instead of "used" / "let go" instead of "fired" / "passed away" instead of "died"

Hyperbole: An extreme exaggeration.

My date last night was the most beautiful girl in the world.

Idiom: A speech form or an expression that is peculiar or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements, as in "kick the bucket" or "under the weather".

Dramatic Irony: Characters are clueless about a situation, but the audience is not.

Example: In the movie *Toy Story*, Buzz Lightyear thinks he is a real space ranger but the other toys and the audience knows that he is just a toy.

Example: In a scary movie, the character goes into a house they think is empty, but the audience knows the killer is in the house. This increases the suspense.

Situational Irony: A situation in which actions have an effect that is opposite from what was intended, so that the outcome is contrary (the opposite) to what was expected.

Examples: Someone is laughing at a person who trips, and then they trip, too. A fire station burns down. A marriage counselor gets divorced.

Verbal Irony: When a person says or writes one thing and means another, or uses words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of the literal meaning.

“Oh, this cold rainy weather will be *great* for my cold!”

Looking at her son's messy room, Mom says, "Wow, you could win an award for cleanliness!"

Metaphors: A direct comparison between two different objects that is made based on a single or some common characteristics

The moon was a clear bright pearl on the black velvet fabric of nighttime.

Onomatopoeia: The creation of words that imitate natural sounds.

The fire crackled and hissed.

Personification: Giving an inanimate object human-like characteristics.

The fog crept in on little cat feet.

Pun: A play on words that produces a humorous effect by using a word that suggests two or more meanings, or by exploiting similar sounding words that have different meanings.

Santa Claus' helpers are known as subordinate Clauses.

I was struggling to figure out how lightning works, but then it struck me.

Sensory detail: Details that appeal to the five senses: sight, sound, smell, touch, taste.

- Crunchy, warm buttered popcorn.
 - The scent of pine when putting up a live Christmas tree.
 - The slicing pain of a paper cut on your index finger.
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Similes: A comparison using "like" or "as".

She looked royal and beautiful like a princess.

Symbol: A concrete object that stands for an abstract idea.

A ray of light can represent *hope*. A candle's warmth represents *life*. A rose represents *love*.