

IDIOM,
PERSONIFICATION,
ONOMATOPOEIA,
HYPERBOLE,
CONSONANCE,
ASSONANCE

LITERAL LANGUAGE

tells it like it is; means exactly what it says

Examples:

Grass looks green.

The flower smells sweet.

Grasshoppers make a high pitched noise.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

creates a picture in the mind of the reader

Examples:

The grass looks like spiky green hair.

The flower has the sweetest smelling petals in the world.

Grasshoppers are fiddlers who play their legs.

HYPERBOLE

It is a device that we employ in our day-to-day speech. For instance, when you meet a friend after a long time, you say, “It’s been ages since I last saw you.” You may not have met him for three or four hours, or a day, but the use of the word “ages” exaggerates this statement to add emphasis to your wait. Therefore, a hyperbole is an unreal exaggeration to emphasize the real situation.

HYPERBOLE

An exaggeration or overstatement
Common Examples of Hyperbole

- My grandmother is as old as the hills.
- Your suitcase weighs a ton!
- She is as heavy as an elephant!
- I am dying of shame.
- I am trying to solve a million issues these days.

HYPERBOLE

It is important not to confuse hyperbole with simile and metaphor. It does make a comparison, like simile and metaphor. Rather, hyperbole has a humorous effect created by an overstatement.

ONOMATOPOEIA

- A word that imitates the sound it represents
- Example:



- Onomatopoeia, is defined as a word which imitates the natural sounds of a thing. It creates a sound effect that mimics the thing described, making the description more expressive and interesting.
- For instance, saying, “The gushing stream flows in the forest” is a more meaningful description than just saying, “The stream flows in the forest.” The reader is drawn to hear the sound of a “gushing stream,” which makes the expression more effective.
- In addition to the sounds they represent, many onomatopoeic words have developed meanings of their own. For example, the word “whisper” not only represents the wispy or breathy sound of people talking quietly, but also describes the action of people talking quietly.

- Common Examples of Onomatopoeia
 - The buzzing bee flew away.
 - The sack fell into the river with a splash.
 - The books fell on the table with a loud thump.
 - He looked at the roaring
 - The rustling leaves kept me awake.
 - The different sounds of animals are also considered as examples of onomatopoeia. You will recognize the following sounds easily:
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- Meow
 - Moo
 - Neigh
 - Tweet
 - Oink
 - Baa

PERSONIFICATION

- An object or animal is given human feelings, thoughts, or attitudes
- Example: The filthy pig smirked in delight.



- Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing – an idea or an animal – is given human attributes. The non-human objects are portrayed in such a way that we feel they have the ability to act like human beings. The following sentence is an example of personification, “The sky weeps,” we are giving the sky the ability to cry, which is a human quality. Thus, we can say that the sky has been personified in the given sentence

Common Examples of Personification

- Look at my car. She is a beauty, isn't she?
- The wind whispered through dry grass.
- The flowers danced in the gentle breeze.
- Time and tide wait for none.
- The fire swallowed the entire forest.
- Now that we have seen what is the meaning of personification let us have a look at a few more examples with personification in a sentence.

Short Examples of Personification in Speech

- The shadow of the moon danced on the lake.
- There was a heavy thunderstorm, the wind snorted outside, rattling my windowpanes.
- The flowers were blooming, and the bees kissed them every now and then.
- The flood raged over the entire village.
- The tread of time is so ruthless that it tramples even the kings under its feet.

IDIOM

- An expression that has a meaning different from the meaning of its individual words
- Example: It's raining cats and dogs.



What are idioms?

- An idiom (also called idiomatic expression) is an expression, word, or phrase that has a figurative meaning conventionally understood by native speakers. This meaning is different from the literal meaning of the idiom's individual elements. In other words, idioms don't mean exactly what the words say. They have, however, hidden meaning.

Examples

- "Kick the bucket"
- "Spill the beans"

The meaning of these expressions is different from the literal meaning or definition of the words of which they are made. Their meaning are however used figuratively. They mean respectively:

- "to die "
- "to tell people secret information"

CONSONANCE

- Repetition of a consonant sound in words of close proximity
- Example: **Pitter-patter**, pitter-patter



- Consonance refers to repetitive sounds produced by consonants within a sentence or phrase. This repetition often takes place in quick succession, such as in “pitter, patter.”
- It is classified as a literary device used in both poetry as well as prose. For instance, the words chuckle, fickle, and kick are consonant with one another, due to the existence of common interior consonant sounds.
- The literary device of consonance is inherently different from assonance, which involves the repetition of similar vowel sounds within a word, sentence, or phrase. Another distinction to be appreciated is that between consonance and rhyme. In the case of rhyme, consonant sounds can be present at the beginning, middle, or end of several successive words, rather than merely at the ends of words. Further, the device of consonance needs to be distinguished from alliteration. In contrast to alliteration, consonance involves repetition of consonant sounds only.

Common Consonance Examples

- The ship has sailed to the far off shore
- She ate seven sandwiches on a sunny Sunday last year.
- Shelley sells shells by the shore.

ASSONANCE

- Repetition of a vowel sound in words of close proximity
- Example: The **cat sat back**.



- Assonance takes place when two or more words, close to one another repeat the same vowel sound, but start with different consonant sounds.

For instance, in the following sentence:

- “Men sell the wedding bells.”
- The same vowel sound of the short vowel “-e-” repeats itself in almost all the words, excluding the definite article. The words do share the same vowel sounds, but start with different consonant sounds – unlike alliteration, which involves repetition of the same consonant sounds. Below are a few assonance examples that are common.

Common Assonance Examples

- We light fire on the mountain.
- I feel depressed and rustle
- Go and mow the lawn.
- Johnny went here and there and everywhere
- The engineer held the steering to steer the vehicle.