



## Figures of speech

Figures of speech use words to create particular visual images and sound effects.

### Visual / Language devices

<p><b>simile</b> A direct comparison using the words <b>as</b> or <b>like</b>.</p>	<p>He was <b>as</b> rich <b>as</b> King Midas. The soldier stood rigid <b>like</b> a tree.</p>
<p><b>metaphor</b> A comparison where one thing is said to be something else.</p>	<p>The man <b>was</b> a rock when things got difficult. The children <b>are</b> little treasures.</p>
<p><b>personification</b> Human qualities are given to inanimate objects.</p>	<p>The trees <b>were dancing</b> with the wind. The flowers <b>begged</b> for water.</p>
<p><b>anthropomorphism</b> Human qualities are given to animals. Used in many books, animations and cartoons.</p>	<p>'I don't like carrots,' said the baby rabbit. The fox was wearing a beautiful, tweed jacket with a yellow bow tie.</p>

### Word play

<p><b>pun</b> A clever play on words involving the multiple meanings of an expression, or two expressions that sound similar.</p>	<p>I'm drawn to art. I need to look for my watch, but I don't have the time.</p>
<p><b>rhetorical questions</b> A question not expecting an answer, but done for emphasis or effect.</p>	<p>Why do we allow the media to decide what is the perfect body shape?</p>
<p><b>spoonerism</b> A mix up of the initial sounds of spoken words.</p>	<p>You've tasted two worms. (You've wasted two terms.) I'm fighting a liar. (I'm lighting a fire.)</p>
<p><b>malapropism</b> The unintentional use of incorrect, similar sounding words.</p>	<p>Our home is skirt by sea. (Our home is girt by sea.)</p>

contradictions

<p><b>irony</b> Implies the opposite of what is actually said.</p>	<p>This explanation is crystal clear.</p>
<p><b>sarcasm</b> Similar to irony but is used to humiliate, hurt or insult.</p>	<p>Obviously you put in a <b>tremendous effort to come last</b> in the race.</p>
<p><b>oxymoron</b> Puts two contradictory words next to each other.</p>	<p>The <b>silence was deafening</b> in the waiting room.</p>

exaggeration or understatement

<p><b>hyperbole</b> An exaggeration aiming at humour or emphasis.</p>	<p>The cook made enough food to <b>feed an army</b>.</p> <p>My bag <b>weighs a tonne</b>.</p>
<p><b>euphemism</b> The substitution of something pleasant or agreeable for something that may offend.</p>	<p>She <b>passed away</b> yesterday.</p> <p>They <b>lost their lives</b> in the war.</p>