

The First Five-thousand Forms of Figurative Language

1. **Alliteration**
The repetition of an initial consonant sound.
2. **Hyperbole**
An extravagant statement; the use of exaggerated terms for the purpose of emphasis or heightened effect.
3. **Idiom**
an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meanings of its constituent elements, as *kick the bucket* or *hang one's head*, or from the general grammatical rules of a language
4. **Imagery**
language that causes people to imagine pictures in their mind; figurative language
5. **Irony**
The use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning. A statement or situation where the meaning is contradicted by the appearance or presentation of the idea.
6. **Metaphor**
An implied comparison between two unlike things that actually have something important in common.
7. **Onomatopoeia**
The use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to.
8. **Oxymoron**
A figure of speech in which incongruous or contradictory terms appear side by side.
9. **Personification**
A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.
10. **Pun**
A play on words, sometimes on different senses of the same word and sometimes on the similar sense or sound of different words.
11. **Simile**
A stated comparison (usually formed with "like" or "as") between two fundamentally dissimilar things that have certain qualities in common.

Additional figures of speech:

1. **Allusion**
an implied or indirect reference especially in literature.
2. **cliché**
a phrase or expression that has been used so often that it is no longer original or interesting; something that is so commonly used in books, stories, etc., that it is no longer effective
3. **Euphemism**
The substitution of an inoffensive term for one considered offensively explicit.
4. **Paradox**
A statement that appears to contradict itself.
5. **Understatement**
A figure of speech in which a writer or speaker deliberately makes a situation seem less important or serious than it is.