

## Figurative Language

When you describe something by comparing it to something else, you are using figurative language. There are seven distinct types of figurative language that will be described below.

### Personification

When using personification, you are giving something that is not human or that is an object, human characteristics.

Example: The leaves waved to us from the branches.

The sun smiled at us with its warm grin.

### Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an exaggeration that is so dramatic that no one could believe that it is actually true.

Example: The man walked in and appeared to be ten feet tall.

The sun was so hot the sidewalk was melting.

### Metaphor

A metaphor is a statement that compares two objects that are not necessarily alike. A metaphor does not use the words like or as.

Example: The world is a stage and the people merely players.

Nigh fell like a curtain across the horizon.

### Simile

Much like a metaphor, a simile compares two objects that are alike in some manner, but a simile always uses the words like or as.

Example: She is as innocent as an angel.

He is as mean as a hungry caged dog.



## **Alliteration**

Alliteration is all about sounds. Alliteration is when a set of words uses the same sound repeatedly, like in a tongue twister.

Example: She sells seashells down by the seashore.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

## **Onomatopoeia**

Onomatopoeia is all about sound. In fact, it is sound words like you may see in a cartoon or comic book.

Example: crash, bang, whoosh, or clank

## **Idioms**

Idioms are a set of words that can have multiple meanings behind them. Idioms are usually cultural and may not be the same in all areas.

Example: Bought the farm (meaning died) or sick as a dog (very ill) or jump the gun (doing something before everything is in place)

Figurative language is used to make writing more interesting and descriptive. This can make your writing better if practiced.