

Figurative Language

Figuring it Out

Figurative and Literal Language

Literally: words function exactly as defined

The car is blue.

He caught the football.

Figuratively: figure out what it means

I've got your back.

You're a doll.

^Figures of Speech

Simile

Comparison of two things using “like” or “as.”

Examples

The metal twisted **like** a ribbon.

She is **as** sweet **as** candy.

Important!

Using “like” or “as” doesn’t make a simile.

A comparison must be made.

Not a Simile: *I like pizza.*

Simile: *The moon is like a pizza.*

Metaphor

Two things are compared **without** using “*like*” or “*as*.”

Examples

All the world **is** a stage.

Men **are** dogs.

She has a stone heart.

Personification

Giving human traits to objects or ideas.

Examples

The sunlight danced.

Water on the lake shivers.

The streets are calling me.

Hyperbole

Exaggerating to show strong feeling or effect.

Examples

I will love you forever.

My house is a million miles from here.

She'd kill me.

Understatement

Expression with less strength than expected.

The opposite of hyperbole.

I'll be there in one second.

This won't hurt a bit.

Quiz

On a separate sheet of paper...

1. I will put an example of figurative language on the board.
2. You will write whether it is an **simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, or understatement.**
3. You can use your notes.

1

He drew a line as straight as an arrow.

2

Knowledge is a kingdom and all who learn are kings and queens.

3

Can I see you for a second?

4

The sun was beating down on me.

5

A flag wags like a fishhook there in the sky.

6

I'd rather take baths
with a man-eating shark,
or wrestle a lion
alone in the dark,
eat spinach and liver,
pet ten porcupines,
than tackle the homework,
my teacher assigns.

7

Ravenous and savage
from its long
polar journey,

the North Wind

is searching
for food—

8

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

9

Can I have one of your chips?

10

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear
in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise

Answers

1. Simile
2. Metaphor
3. Understatement
4. Personification
5. Simile
6. Hyperbole
7. Personification
8. Metaphor
9. Understatement
10. Metaphor