

Simile: a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid (e.g., *as brave as a lion, crazy like a fox*). Uses like or as.

Metaphor: a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

Personification: the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something nonhuman, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form.

Hyperbole: exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.

Alliteration: the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Onomatopoeia: the formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named (e.g. *cuckoo, sizzle*).

Consonance: the recurrence of similar sounds, especially consonants, in close proximity (chiefly as used in prosody).

Anaphora: the use of a word referring to or replacing a word used earlier in a sentence, to avoid repetition, such as *do* in *I like it and so do they*.

Oxymoron: a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction (e.g. *faith unfaithful kept him falsely true*).

Allusion: an expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly; an indirect or passing reference.

Idiom: a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words (e.g., *rain cats and dogs, see the light*).

Assonance: in poetry, the repetition of the sound of a vowel or diphthong in nonrhyming stressed syllables near enough to each other for the echo to be discernible (e.g., *penitence, reticence*).

Metonymy: the substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant, for example *suit* for *business executive*, or *the track* for *horse racing*.