

Top 20 Figurative Language Terms

Directions: Use the information below to create flash cards to be used as study tools.

1. **Alliteration**
Repetition of an initial consonant sound.
2. **Anaphora**
Repetition of the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or verses.
3. **Antithesis**
The juxtaposition of contrasting ideas in balanced phrases.
4. **Apostrophe**
Breaking off discourse to address some absent person or thing, some abstract quality, an inanimate object, or a nonexistent character.
5. **Assonance**
Identity or similarity in sound between internal vowels in neighboring words.
6. **Chiasmus**
A verbal pattern in which the second half of an expression is balanced against the first but with the parts reversed.
7. **Euphemism**
The substitution of an inoffensive term for one considered offensively explicit.
8. **Hyperbole**
An extravagant statement; the use of exaggerated terms for the purpose of emphasis or heightened effect.
9. **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.
10. **Litotes**
A figure of speech consisting of an understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by negating its opposite.
11. **Metaphor**
An implied comparison between two unlike things that actually have something important in common.
12. **Metonymy**
A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated; also, the rhetorical strategy of describing something indirectly by referring to things around it.

13. **Onomatopoeia**

The formation or use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to.

14. **Oxymoron**

A figure of speech in which incongruous or contradictory terms appear side by side.

15. **Paradox**

A statement that appears to contradict itself.

16. **Personification**

A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.

17. **Pun**

A play on words, sometimes on different senses of the same word and sometimes on the similar sense or sound of different words.

18. **Simile**

A stated comparison (usually formed with "like" or "as") between two fundamentally dissimilar things that have certain qualities in common.

19. **Synechdoche**

A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole, the whole for a part, the specific for the general, the general for the specific, or the material for the thing made from it.

20. **Understatement**

A figure of speech in which a writer or a speaker deliberately makes a situation seem less important or serious than it is.

Examples

Simile (SIH-muh-lee): a comparison between two or more things using the words *like* or *as*.

example: "I move fast like a cheetah on the Serengeti."

Metaphor (MET-uh-for): a comparison between two or more things that doesn't use the words *like* or *as*.

example: "You are an ant, while I'm the lion."

Alliteration (uh-LIT-er-AY-shuhn): a phrase with a string of words all beginning with the same sound.

example: "Five freaky females finding sales at retail."

Hyperbole (hie-PER-buh-lee): an exaggeration.

example: "I fought a million rappers in an afternoon in June."

Personification, (per-son-if-ih-KAY-shon): giving an animal or object human-like characteristics.

example: "Alright, the sky misses the sun at night."

