

FIGURES OF SPEECH

OVERVIEW: WHAT ARE FIGURES OF SPEECH?

Figures of speech are creative ways writers use words beyond their literal meaning for effect.

Every colored phrase below is a different figure of speech:

The **wind whispered** as her smile, **bright as the sun**, was **worth a million words**.

SIMILE

A comparison using "like" or "as."

Example:

Her smile was **as bright as the sun**.

METAPHOR

A direct comparison, without "like" or "as."

Example:

Time is a thief that steals our days.

PERSONIFICATION

Giving human qualities to non-human things.

Example:

The **wind whispered** through the trees.

HYPERBOLE

Extreme exaggeration, not meant to be taken literally.

Example:

I've told you **a million times**.

ALLITERATION

Repetition of the same beginning consonant sound.

Example:

Peter Piper picked some peppers.

ONOMATOPOEIA

A word that imitates the sound it describes.

Example:

The bacon **sizzled** and **popped**.

IDIOM

A phrase whose meaning differs from its literal words.

Example:

It's **raining cats and dogs** outside.

OXYMORON

Two contradictory terms placed together.

Example:

The room was full of **deafening silence**.