

Classification of Figures of Speech based on:

similarity	association	contrast	imagination	indirectness	sound	construction
<p>1. Simile A simile is the comparison of two unlike things using the word 'like' or 'as', e.g. an example of a simile would be as big as a bus.</p> <p>2. Metaphor a figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable in order to suggest a resemblance, as in "A mighty fortress is our god." Compare <u>mixed metaphor</u>, <u>simile</u> def. 1. or something used, or regarded as being used, to represent something else; emblem; symbol.</p> <p>3. Allegory</p>	<p>1. Metonymy a figure of speech that consists of the use of the <u>name</u> of one object or concept for that of another to which it is related, or of which it is a part, as "scepter" for "sovereignty," or "the bottle" for "strong drink," or "count heads (or noses)" for "count people"</p> <p>-----</p> <p>2. Synecdoche a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole or the whole for a part, the special for the general or the general for the special, as in <i>ten sail for ten ships</i> or <i>a Croesus for a rich man</i>.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>3. Transferr</p>	<p>1. Antithesis A <u>rhetorical term</u> for the juxtaposition of contrasting ideas in balanced <u>phrases</u> or <u>clauses</u>. "Love is an ideal thing, marriage a real thing."</p> <p>2. Epigram A concise, clever, often <u>paradoxical</u> statement or line of verse. Adjective: <i>epigrammatic</i> "The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws." (Tacitus) "I am not young enough to know everything." (Oscar Wilde)</p> <p>3. Oxymoron A <u>figure of speech</u> in which incongruous or contradictory terms appear side by side; a compressed <u>paradox</u>. Adjective: <i>oxymoronic</i>. the expressions "act</p>	<p>1. Personification A <u>figure of speech</u> (generally considered a type of <u>metaphor</u>) in which an inanimate object or abstraction is given human qualities or abilities. Eg., The wind stood up and gave a shout. He whistled on his fingers and Kicked the withered leaves about And thumped the branches with his hand And said he'd kill and kill and kill, And so he will and so he will. (James Stephens, "The Wind")</p> <p>2. Apostrophe A <u>figure of speech</u> in which some absent or nonexistent person or thing is addressed as if present and capable of understanding. Eg., "O western wind, when wilt thou blow That the small rain down can rain?"</p>	<p>1. Innuendo A subtle or indirect observation about a person or thing, usually of a critical or disparaging nature; an insinuation. The veiled threat also has a stereotype: the Mafia wiseguy offering protection with the soft sell, 'Nice store you got there. Would be a real shame if something happened to it.' Traffic cops sometimes face not-so-innocent questions like, 'Gee, Officer, is there some way I could pay the fine right here?'" (Steven Pinker, "Words Don't Mean What They Mean." <i>Time</i>, Sep. 6, 2007)</p> <p>2. Irony The use of words to convey the opposite of their <u>literal</u> meaning; a statement or situation where the meaning is contradicted by the appearance or</p>	<p>1. Pun A play on words, either on different senses of the same word or on the similar sense or sound of different words. Also known as <u>paronomasia</u>. Eg., Kings worry about a receding heir line.</p> <p>2. Onomatopoeia The use of words (such as <i>hiss</i> or <i>murmur</i>) that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to. Adjective: <i>onomatopoeic</i> or <i>onomatopoetic</i>.eg. '<i>Bang!</i> went the pistol, <i>Crash!</i> went the window <i>Ouch!</i> went the son of a gun.</p>	<p>1. Chiasmus a verbal pattern (a type of <u>antithesis</u>) in which the second half of an expression is balanced against the first with the parts reversed. "You forget what you want to remember, and you remember what you want to forget." (Cormac McCarthy, <i>The Road</i>, 2006)</p> <p>2. Zeugma Use of a word to modify or govern two or more words although its use may be grammatically or logically correct with only one. (Edward Corbett offers this distinction between zeugma and <u>sylllepsis</u>: in zeugma, unlike sylllepsis, the single word does not fit grammatically or idiomatically with one member of the pair. Thus, in Corbett's view, the first example below would be sylllepsis, the second zeugma.) Eg., "Who sees with</p>

<p>a representation of an abstract or spiritual meaning through concrete or material forms; figurative treatment of one subject under the guise of another or a symbolical narrative: <i>the allegory of Piers Plowman</i></p> <hr/> <p>4. Parable a short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson or a statement or comment that conveys a meaning indirectly by the use of comparison, analogy, or the like.</p> <hr/> <p>5. Fable a short tale to teach a moral lesson, often with animals or inanimate objects as characters; apologue: <i>the</i></p>	<p>ed Epithet A <u>figure of speech</u> in which an <u>epithet</u> (or <u>adjective</u>) grammatically qualifies a <u>noun</u> other than the person or thing it is actually describing. Also known as <u>hypallage</u>. A transferred epithet often involves shifting a <u>modifier</u> from the animate to the inanimate, as in the phrases "cheerful money" and "the suicidal sky."</p> <hr/> <p>4. Allusion A brief, usually indirect reference to a person, place, or event--real or fictional. Adjective: <i>allusive</i>.</p> <hr/>	<p>naturally," "random order," "original copy," "found missing," "alone together," "criminal justice," "old news," "peace force," "even odds," "awful good," "student teacher," "definite possibility," "definite maybe," "terribly pleased," "civil war," "real phony," "ill health," "turn up missing," "jumbo shrimp," "loose tights,"</p> <hr/> <p>4. Climax In <u>rhetoric</u>, mounting by degrees through words or sentences of increasing weight and in <u>parallel</u> construction (see <u>auxesis</u>), with an emphasis on the high point or culmination of a series of events or of an experience. Eg. "I came, I saw, I conquered." (Julius Caesar); "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (St. John, <i>The New</i></p>	<p>3. Hyperbole A <u>figure of speech</u> (a form of <u>irony</u>) in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; an extravagant statement. Adjective: <i>hyperbolic</i>. Contrast with <u>understatement</u>.</p> <hr/> <p>Eg., "I was helpless. I did not know what in the world to do. I was quaking from head to foot, and could have hung my hat on my eyes, they stuck out so far." (Mark Twain, "Old Times on the Mississippi")</p>	<p>presentation of the idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal irony is a <u>trope</u> in which the intended meaning of a statement differs from the meaning that the words appear to express. Situational irony involves an incongruity between what is expected or intended and what actually occurs. Dramatic irony is an effect produced by a <u>narrative</u> in which the audience knows more about present or future circumstances than a character in the story "Gentlemen, you can't fight in here! This is the War Room." (Peter Sellers as President Merkin Muffley in <i>Dr. Strangelove</i>, 1964) <hr/> <p>3. Periphrasis In <u>rhetoric</u>, a roundabout description of something--<u>verbosity</u>. A form of</p>	<p>Onomatopoeia-- I don't want to see ya Speaking in a foreign tongue." (John Prine, "Onomatopoeia")</p> <hr/> <p>3. Alliteration The repetition of an initial <u>consonant</u> sound, as in "a peck of pickled peppers."</p> <hr/> <p>4. Assonance [more a matter of prosody] Identity or similarity in sound between internal <u>vowels</u> in neighboring words. "Those images that yet Fresh images beget, That dolphin-torn, that gong-tormented sea." (W.B. Yeats, "Byzantium")</p>	<p>equal eye, as God of all, A hero perish, or a sparrow fall, Atoms or systems into ruin hurled, <i>And now a bubble burst, and now a world.</i>" (Alexander Pope, <i>Essay on Man</i>) -"Kill all the poys [boys] and luggage!" (Fluellen in William Shakespeare's <i>Henry V</i>) -"You are free to execute your laws, and your citizens, as you see fit."</p> <hr/> <p>3. Litotes A <u>figure of speech</u> consisting of an <u>understatement</u> in which an affirmative is expressed by negating its opposite. Eg. "The grave's a fine a private place, But none, I think, do there embrace." (Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress")</p> <hr/> <p>4. hyperbaton -A <u>figure of speech</u> that uses disruption or inversion of customary word order to produce a distinctive</p>
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<p><i>fable of the tortoise and the hare; Aesop's fables.</i></p>		<p><i>Testament,</i></p> <p>5. Anti-climax An abrupt shift from a serious or noble tone to a less exalted one--often for comic effect. Eg., "The holy passion of Friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a whole lifetime, <i>if not asked to lend money.</i>" (Mark Twain)</p>		<p>circumlocution, periphrasis is generally considered a stylistic vice. Adjective: <i>periphrastic</i>. See also the grammatical term periphrastic.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>4. Euphemism substitution of an inoffensive term (such as "passed away") for one considered offensively explicit ("died"). Contrast with dysphemism. Adjective: <i>euphemistic</i> "The 'reconstruction' of New Orleans has become a euphemism for the destruction of the city's cultural and historic heritage." (Ghali Hassan, 2006)</p>	<p>effect; also, a figure in which language takes a sudden turn--usually an interruption. "Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall." (William Shakespeare, <i>Measure for Measure</i> II.i) "Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man." (Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart")</p> <p>-----</p> <p>5. Asyndeton a rhetorical term for a writing style that omits conjunctions between words, phrases, or clauses (opposite of polysyndeton). "They dove, splashed, floated, splashed, swam, snorted."</p> <p>-----</p> <p>6. Anaphora -A rhetorical term for the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses. By building toward a climax, anaphora can create a strong emotional effect.</p>
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