

Incredible fun with...



Figures of Speech

**You will learn the
following figures of
speech...**



Similes

and

Metaphors

MORE!

Personification

Hyperbole

But first...



What is the difference between...

Literal

and

Figurative

language?

Literal means...

- **The actual, dictionary meaning of a word; language that means what it appears to mean**
- **Avoiding exaggeration, metaphor, or embellishment**
- **Conforming to the most obvious meaning of a word, phrase, sentence, or story**



In other words...



- **It means exactly what it says! Word for word.**

Example One:

The U.S. is a large country.

What does it mean? Exactly what it says!

Example Two:

The weather is beautiful today.

What does it mean? Exactly what it says!

Figurative means...



- **Language that goes beyond the normal meaning of the words used**
- **Based on or making use of figures of speech; metaphorical**
- **Represented by a figure or symbol**

In other words...

- **Figure it out! There's a deeper meaning hidden in the words.**

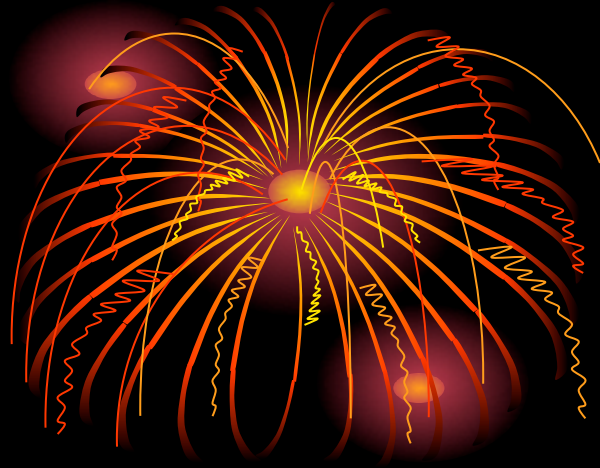
Example: Fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose. -Hada Bejar

Does it mean you have a smelly hand? NO!

What does it mean? Giving to others is gracious and the good feeling of giving stays with you.



So...



**Read between
the lines
because not
everything is as
it appears.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,
put your hands together as
I proudly present to you,
the essential...**



Figures of Speech!

1. Simile



- **A FIGURE OF SPEECH**
in which a comparison
is made between
unlike or dissimilar
objects using the
words like or as.

Simile

For example...



- **Friends are like parachutes. If they aren't there the first time you need them, chances are, you won't be needing them again.**

-James A. Lovell

Jr.

- **Does this mean that I should jump out of an airplane with my friend strapped to my back? Absolutely not!**
- **Friends are being compared to parachutes using the word like. (friends = parachutes)**
- **Friends and parachutes are dissimilar and unlike each other, yet we have found a way to relate and compare them.**

Simile

What is the meaning of...?



- **Friends are like parachutes. If they aren't there the first time you need them, chances are, you won't be needing them again.**

-James A. Lovell

Jr.

- **Parachutes must be there for you the first time you need them or you will fall to your death. If they are not there for you the first time you need them, you will not need them again. You'll be dead!**
- **Friends are the same way. If you have a crisis and need your friend to support you, but he doesn't come through, you don't really need that friend for help again.**

2. Metaphor



- **A FIGURE OF SPEECH in which a comparison is drawn between two dissimilar or unlike things without the use of like or as.**

Metaphor

For example...



- **A good laugh is sunshine in a house.**

-Thackeray

- Does this mean that a laugh is actually light from the sun? Absolutely not!
- A good laugh is being compared to sunshine by saying that it is sunshine. (laugh = sunshine)
- A good laugh and sunshine are dissimilar and unlike things being compared to each other.

Metaphor

What is the meaning of...?



- **A good laugh is sunshine in a house.**

-Thackeray

- **Sunshine brings joy and happiness to people. It brightens up a room, a house or where ever its rays strike.**
- **Laughter does the same thing. It also brings joy and happiness to people and brightens up a room, a house, or where ever it is heard.**

3. Personification



- **A FIGURE OF SPEECH**
in which animals,
ideas, or objects are
given human
characteristics or form.

For example...



- **The tree bowed and waved to me in the wind.**
- **Does this mean a tree actually recognized I was there and acknowledged me by taking a bow and waving to me? Absolutely not!**
- **The tree is being given the human characteristics or actions of waving and bowing. The tree is being personified. It now has character.**
- **Again, unlike or dissimilar things are being compared. (tree = person)**

Personification

What is the meaning of this...?

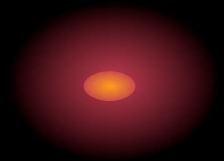
- **The tree bowed and waved to me in the wind.**
- This simply draws the picture in our minds that it must be an extremely windy day for the trees branches to 'wave' and the trunk to bend as if it were 'bowing.'
- The tree is being given the human characteristics or actions of waving and bowing. The tree is being personified. It now has character.



Alliteration



A FIGURE OF SPEECH
represented by a
repetition of initial
consonant sounds.



Alliteration

The sign reads..

Education:

**The inculcation of
the
incomprehensible
into the indifferent
by the incompetent.**



Alliteration

If Peter Piper
picked a peck
of pickled
peppers, how
many pickled
peppers did
Peter Piper
pick?



Idiom



Words used that have a different meaning than the literal meaning.

“You can’t tell a book by its cover.”

Meaning: *You can’t know a person by their looks alone.*

“live out of a suitcase”

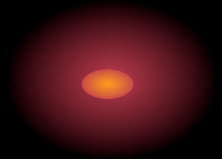
Meaning:

Traveling all the time.

“name dropper”

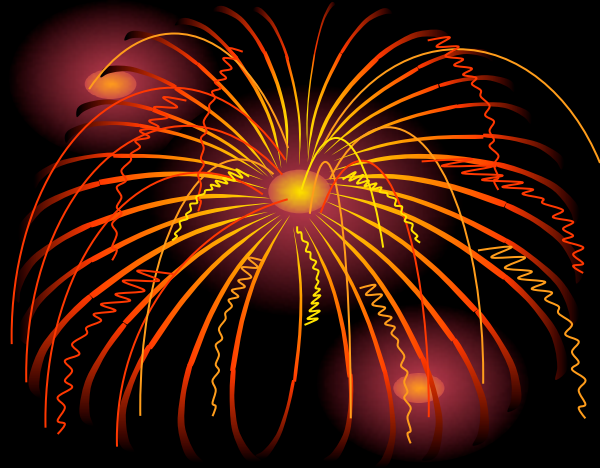
Meaning:

**Someone who wants others to
know they associate with
important or famous people.**



“had a ball”

Meaning: Had a good time



What do these Idioms Mean?



**“I’ ll cross that bridge
when I come to it.”**

“Don’ t burn your bridges.”

4. Hyperbole

- **A FIGURE OF SPEECH in which an exaggeration or overstatement is made to illustrate a point.**



Hyperbole

For example...

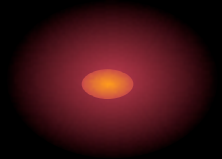
- **I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!**

and

- **Ten thousand suns light up this room.**

- **Does this mean I could actually eat an entire horse or that this room is blindingly bright from actual suns? Of course not!**

- **A ridiculous image is being painted in our minds to get the significance and importance of the point across.**



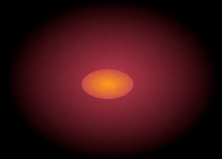
Hyperbole

What is the meaning of this...?

- **I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!**

and

- **Ten thousand suns light up this room.**
- **The first obviously means that I am extremely hungry** but in no way could I eat a 400 pound horse!
- **The second clearly means that our room is extremely bright** but in no way will we be blinded by it!



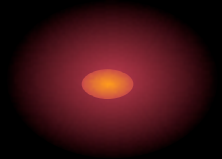
Hyperbole

What is the meaning of this...?

- **I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!**

and

- **Ten thousand suns light up this room.**
- **These are both exaggerations to illustrate a point.**



Hyperbole

Hyperbole can be funny...!



- **Here are a few humorous hyperboles:**

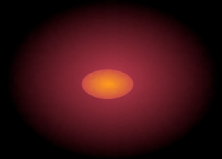
- “My sister uses so much makeup, she broke a chisel trying to get it off last night!”
- “My teacher is so old, they’ve already nailed the coffin shut.”
- “My dog is so ugly, you can’t tell if he’s coming or going.”
- “Your sister is so skinny, she has to run around in the shower to get wet!”

Onomatopoeia

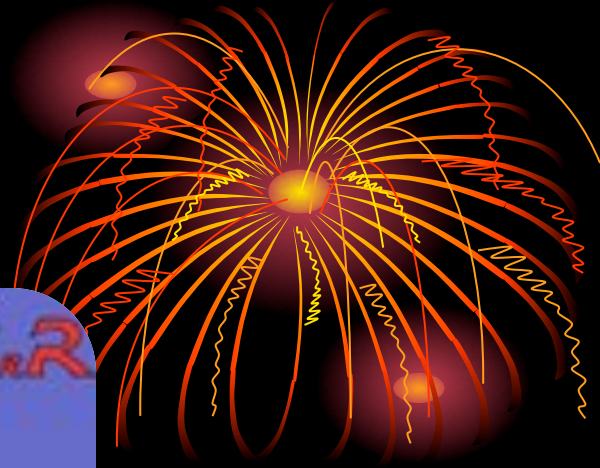
**A FIGURE OF SPEECH
in which Words are
written like the sound
they make.**



Onomatopoeia



Onomatopoeia



Cliché



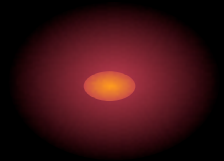
A FIGURE OF SPEECH or expression that is so overdone and overused by society that it no longer means much of anything.

Cliché

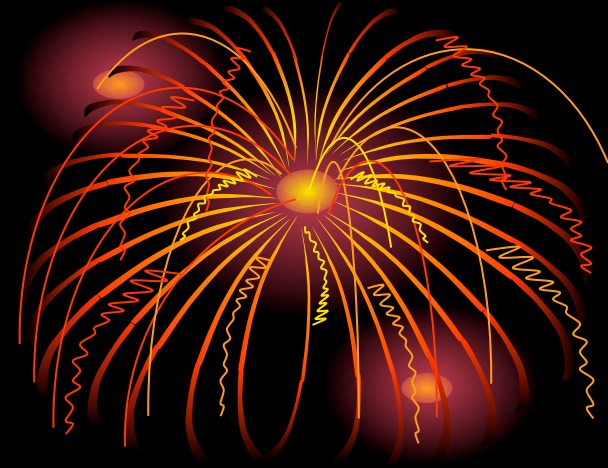
Examples



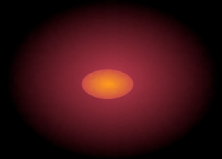
- **"That's the way the cookie crumbles"**
- **"LOL"**
- **"In a jiffy"**
- **"Time will tell"**
- **"A diamond in the rough"**

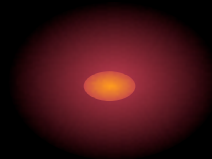


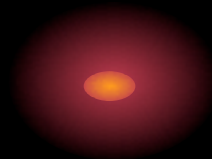
Clichés writers should avoid:



- 1. Avoid it like the plague**
- 2. Dead as a doornail**
- 3. Take the tiger by the tail**
- 4. Low hanging fruit**
- 5. If only walls could talk**
- 6. The pot calling the kettle black**
- 7. Think outside the box**
- 8. Thick as thieves**
- 9. But at the end of the day**
- 10. Plenty of fish in the sea**
- 11. Every dog has its day**
- 12. Like a kid in a candy store**



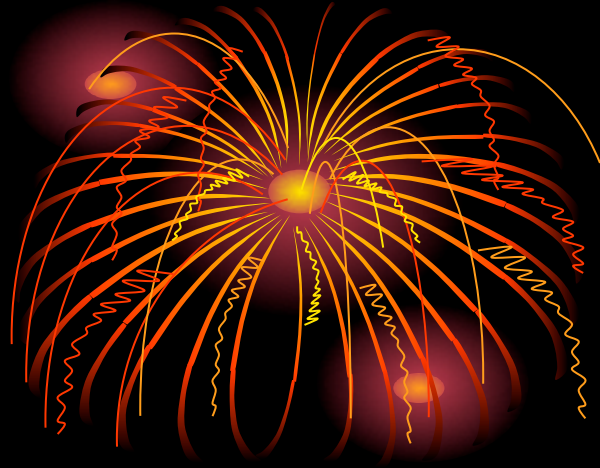




5. Litotes

- **Deliberate understatement, especially when expressing a thought by denying or negating its opposite.**





What the...?

Litotes

For example...



J.D. Salinger,

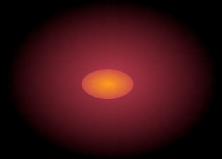
The Catcher in the Rye

and

- **It isn't very serious. I have this tiny little tumor on the brain.**
- **This is no small problem.**
- **Does the first mean a brain tumor isn't very serious? No! The seriousness of the situation is lessened or understated for effect.**
- **In the second example, small is the opposite of big and then small is negated, making it seem less important.**

Litotes

Here's how you do it....



- **This is no small problem.**

really means...

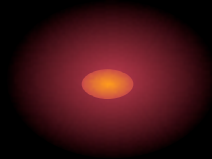
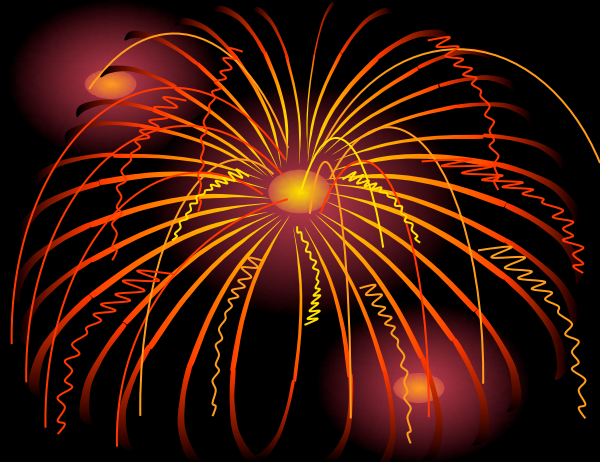
- **This is a big problem.**

1. The opposite of **big** is **small**.
2. Negate **small** by adding **not** or **no**.
3. Restructure your sentence.

- **This is a big problem.**

becomes...

- **This is no small problem.**



I get it!

More on litotes...



- **Litotes is used to express modesty or downplay one's accomplishments in order to gain favor or respect.**
- **If one just bought a Bently, he might say...**
- **It wasn't cheap.**
- **If one is healthy, he might say...**
- **I'm not unwell, thank you.**
- **If one played an outstanding basketball game, he might say...**
- **I didn't play poorly.**

6. Metonymy

- **A FIGURE OF SPEECH**
in which a part
represents a whole **or**
a whole represents a
part.



Metonymy

For example...



- **The dagger of the United States sliced Saddam Hussein's army to pieces.**
and
- **I pledge my service to the crown.**
- **Did just a knife alone destroy Sadaam's armies? Absolutely not! The knife represents a part of the whole United States Armed Forces. (knife = U.S. Armed Forces)**
- **Do I pledge my service to just a crown that sits atop the king's head? No! The solitary crown represents a part of the whole king and kingdom to whom I pledge my service. (crown = king and kingdom)**

Metonymy

More metonymy examples...

- **She was a girl of twenty summers.**
(twenty summers = twenty years)
- **A fleet of thirty sails docked at the harbour.**
(thirty sails = 30 complete ships)
- **France has just beaten Ireland in the World Cup!**
(France = a soccer team from France,
Ireland = a soccer team from Ireland)

In this case, the wholes of France and Ireland are used to represent a part of France and Ireland, their soccer teams.



Metonymy

More metonymy examples...

- **Keep your eye on the ball.**
(eye = your complete, undivided attention)
- **He's always chasing skirts.**
(skirts = whole women)
- **John reads Poe.**
(Poe = all the works written by Poe)



Metonymy

Another metonymy example...



Fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose. -Hada Bejar

(hand = the whole person who gives)

A part (hand) represents a whole (person).

**And now you have
learned the following
figures of speech...**



Similes

Litotes

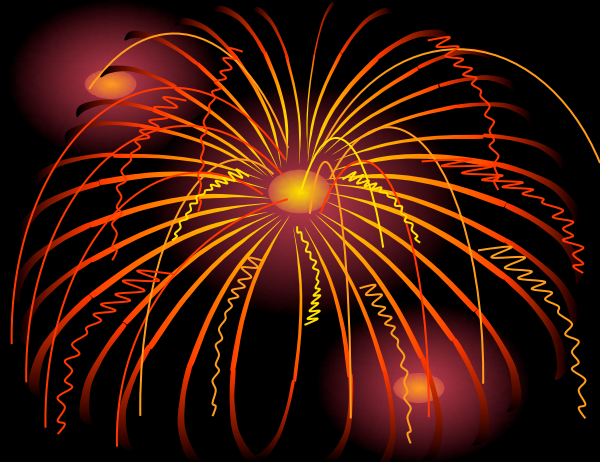
Metaphors

and

Personification

Metonymy

Hyperbole



The End?