

Forms of Figurative Language and What They Mean

Term	Definition	Example
Adage	An old time saying, proverb (words of wisdom), or maxim (rule of conduct) that has become true over time.	Saying- A person is known by the company he keeps. Proverb-Beauty is only skin deep. Maxim-Honesty is the best policy.
Alliteration	The repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words.	The wild and woolly walrus waits and wonders when we'll walk by.
Hyperbole	A big exaggeration, usually with humor in it	My sister uses so much makeup that she has to use a sandblaster to get it off at night.
Idiom	The language peculiar to a group of people; sayings that make sense only to that culture group	It was raining cats and dogs. There was a frog in her throat. He coughed his lungs out last night.
Irony	A tragic twist to what should have been a happy moment	He won the million dollar power ball and died the next day. It rained on her wedding day.
Metaphor	Comparing two unlike things with a state of being verb or no state of being verb.	I am a rock. My mom is a busy beaver. The incident in the grocery ruffled his feathers.
Onomatopoeia	Naming a thing or an action by imitating the sound associated with it.	Buzz, hiss, roar, woof, pling, smack, crash, boom, zonk
Personification	Giving a non-human thing human qualities or actions	The sun smiled down on me. The flowers lifted up their heads and drank in the rain.
Simile	Comparing two unlike things with the words like, as, and sometimes than.	Life is like a box of chocolates. She is as cute as a bunny. He is slicker than butter.