



Part Two Diction

Figures of Speech (1)

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never forget how to dream



Lead-in

- **Please list the figures of speech you have learned and make sentences by using simile or metaphor.**



Figures of Speech

■ Q: Why should we use figures of speech?

1. *Simile*

2. *Metaphor*

3. *Personification*

4. *Metonymy*

5. *Synecdoche*

6. *Euphemism*



1. Simile

A simile is a figure of speech which makes a comparison between two unlike elements having at least one quality or characteristic *in common*.

Pay attention to:

- 1) a comparison between two unlike elements; that is to say, they are not in the same class.
- 2) at least one quality in common.
- 3) The comparison is purely imaginative.
- 4) To make the comparison, words like as, as ...so, and like are used.



1. Simile

Examples:

■ LIKE :

My love is **LIKE** a red, red rose.

Your teeth are **LIKE** stars (they come out at night!)

He is **LIKE** a mad dog.

She was shaking **LIKE** a leaf.

The Assyrians came down **LIKE** a wolf on the fold.

■ AS :

He is **AS** brave **AS** a lion.

I wandered lonely **AS** a cloud.



2. Metaphor

- It is the use of a word which originally denotes one thing to refer to another with a similar quality.
- It's also comparison, but the comparison is implied, **not** expressed with the word **as** or **like**.

Please compare simile with metaphor.

The similar and different points between simile and metaphor

- A metaphor, like a simile, also makes a comparison between two unlike elements, but unlike a simile, this comparison is implied rather than stated.
- In a simile, the words *like, as, as ... so* are used to make the comparison, as in
 - (1) Jim was as cunning *as a fox*.
 - (2) The world is like *as stage*.

In a metaphor, however, the comparison would appear simply as

- (1a) Jim was a *fox*.
 - (2a) The world is a *stage*.
- A metaphor, then, is in a sense a condensed simile, differing from the latter only in form and artistry.



Exercise: Identify the similes and metaphors in the following.
Then convert the similes into metaphors, and expand the metaphors into similes .

e.g. He fought like a lion in the battle. (S)

He was a lion in the battle. (M)

a. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

b. He is as stupid as an ass.

c. The parks are the lungs of our city.

d. His voice sounded like thunder in that room.

e. The machine-gun shot down the enemy like a mower cutting down grass.

f. Her manner was icy.

g. Slimy canals crept like green snakes beside the road.

3. Personification

By definition, personification is a figure of speech that gives human form or feelings to animals, or life and personal attributes to inanimate objects, or to ideas and abstractions,

e.g.

- (1) The hot day dragged its weary feet into the evening.
- (2) The flowers nodded and smiled as if welcoming her to this new land.
- (3) The city is proud of its heritage and smiles benignly(仁慈地) on its ethnic mix.
- (4) The wind whistled through the trees.



Practice

1. *Underline the idea, object, animal being personified and circle what they are doing that makes it an example of personification.*
 - a. *The sun danced across the sky on the hot summer day.*
 - b. *The big full moon guided me through the forest.*
 - c. *The mountain listened to the rumbles beneath its surface.*
 - d. *As the rain pounded to the ground, everyone ran for cover.*
 - e. *The old man sat at the edge of the sea as the waves crashed on the shore.*
 - f. *The old car groaned as it made its way down the long open road.*



2. Choose a word from List B or another word that names an action. Write this word next to the word from List A.

List A

sun
moon
Stars
sky
sea
stone
night
mountain
dawn
morning

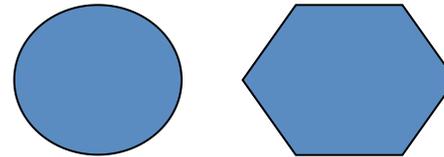
List B

tells
shows
reminds
teaches
listens
remembers
brings
looks
dances
dreams
guides
takes

4. Metonymy(转喻)

o Metonymy is a figure of speech that has to do with the substitution of the name of one thing for that of another. This substituted name may be an **character** of that other thing or be **closely associated** with it. In other words, it involves a "change of name," the substituted name suggesting the thing meant.

Metonymy is founded on relationship



For Example:

1. *pen*: what is written by the pen; books, articles, etc.
2. *sword*: instrument of force and destruction;
e.g. The *pen* is mightier than the *sword*.
3. *table*: source or supply of food;
e.g. She sets a good (poor) *table*. (=She provides good (poor) food.)
4. *bottle*: liquor, wine, alcohol;
e.g. He took to the *bottle*. (=He took to drinking.)
5. *the crown—the king*



Practice

Which of the sentences or phrases below are metaphors or metonyms?

- a. His hands were vine shoots.*
- b. He took to the bottle after his wife's death.*
- c. There was not a soul in the street.*
- d. Life is not a bed of roses.*
- e. The dinner cost us twenty pounds per head.*
- f. Would you like a Scotch?*



5. Synecdoche (提喻法)

A synecdoche is a figure of speech in which the one of the following (or its reverse) is expressed:

A part stands for a whole

An individual stands for a class

A special for a common

A material stands for a thing

For instance,

- They counted fifty *sails* in the harbour.
- *sails* really means *ships*, and is an example of the part representing the whole. However, in the sentence "The birds sang to welcome *the smiling year*" *the smiling year* indicates *spring*, or *springtime*, and is an example of the whole representing the part.



6. Euphemism

Questions:

- **What is Euphemism?**
- What are the motives for euphemizing?
- For what particular topics are euphemism often used?

- Euphemism is defined in the New Edition of *the Oxford Concise Dictionary* (1976) as “Substitution of mild or vague or roundabout expression for harsh or direct one; expression thus substituted.”
- In *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* (1973) the definition read, "Substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant."
- **Definition:**

We have to deliberately avoid mentioning directly of these *harsh, blunt, unpleasant, or offensive* things for fear of hurting other people's feelings



<i>to die</i>	<i>to pass away, to leave us; one's heart has stopped beating</i>
<i>old people</i>	<i>senior citizens</i>
<i>mad</i>	<i>emotionally disturbed</i>
<i>dustmen</i>	<i>sanitation worker</i>
<i>Lavatory</i>	<i>bathroom, men's (women's) room</i>
<i>Invasion, raid</i>	<i>military action</i>



Summary and Practice

- **Exercise 1** Make sentences that vividly described each item below, using simile, metaphor and personification. The first one has been done as an example.

1) *Rain: The rain hissed on the hot cabin roof, then slithered down the window in streams like transparent snake.*

2) *A river*

3) *an old car*

4) *the moon*

5) *snow*

Practice

- **Exercise 2** Make sentences that explain your views on the following hard-to-define concepts, using simile, metaphor and personification. The first one has been done as an example.

1) *Life: Life is a rosebush growing in my garden, full of thorns but fragrant and lovely.*

2) *love*

3) *happiness*

4) *Fear*

5) *hate*



Assignment

- 1. Review what we have discussed today.*
- 2. Write a paragraph about 80 words, in which you should use at least 5 figures of speech we have discussed this time.*