

Figurative Language

Figurative language is what makes reading fun and interesting. There are many different types of figurative language out there. Figurative language is different from literal language.

Vocabulary

Literal Language	Writing with words that keep their given meaning.
Figurative Language	Writing that goes beyond the actual meaning of the words to help the reader have deeper understanding or trigger the senses.
Imagery	Using language that helps trigger the five senses - seeing, hearing, taste, feeling, and smell.
Comparisons	Comparing two things that have similar qualities to make them stand out.
Personification	To give human qualities to objects or things from nature.
Idioms	A traditional phrase that holds a specific meaning that usually very different than the used words.

Literal Language

1. *The bird flew out of the tree and into its nest.*
2. *The sun was shining in the sky.*
3. *The lily pad floated on the pond next to a patch of algae.*

Comparisons

1. *The frog was a statue, waiting for a fly to buzz by.*

The frog is compared to a _____.

They are both _____.

2. *The lightning cut through the sky like a jagged knife.*

The lightning is compared to a _____.

They both _____.

Imagery

1. *The toad rubbed its dry and bumpy skin against the rough bark of the tree.*

What sense is triggered? _____.

What words triggered you? _____.

2. *The skunk sprayed its foul stench which obliterated the lovely fragrance of flowers.*

What sense is triggered? _____.

What words triggered you? _____.

Personification

1. *The sun smiled on the bayou, illuminating the normally shady trees.*

The human action is _____.

What really happened? _____.

2. *As thunder boomed, the clouds began to cry.*

The human action is _____.

What really happened? _____.

Figurative Language Examples

Imagery Examples

Comparison Examples

Personification Examples

Extra Examples

Common English Idioms

1. Give it a shot - Try
2. Speak your mind - Say what you really feel
3. A piece of cake - Very easy
4. Slipped my mind - I forgot
5. Be in hot water - Be in trouble
6. It cost an arm and a leg - It was expensive
7. It's in the bag - It's a certainty
8. Get cold feet - Be nervous
9. A rip off - Not a good deal
10. Get a kick out of - Enjoy something
11. Read between the lines - Find the hidden meaning
12. Draw a blank - Can't remember
13. Have a change of heart - Changed your mind
14. Get your act together - Behave properly
15. Play it by ear - Be ready to change plans
16. Have second thoughts - Have doubts
17. Have a shot at - Have a chance
18. Out of the blue - With no warning
19. A grey area - Something unclear
20. I'm all ears - You have my undivided attention
21. See eye to eye - Agree
22. Call it a day - Time to quit
1. Fish out of water - Being somewhere you don't belong
2. Get off your high horse - Quit thinking you are better than others
3. Hold your horses - Wait a minute
4. Let the cat out of the bag - Tell a secret
5. Curiosity killed the cat - Asking may get you in trouble
6. Cat got your tongue? - Why aren't you talking?
7. Raining cats and dogs - It is raining very hard
8. You can't teach an old dog new tricks - It's harder for older people to learn new things
9. Doggy bag - A bag to take home leftovers from a restaurant
10. A little birdie told me - Someone told me a secret
11. Goose is cooked - Now you're in trouble
12. Put a bug in his ear - Make a suggestion
13. A bull in a china shop - someone who is very clumsy
14. Pig out - To eat a lot
15. Wolf in sheep's clothing - A person who pretends to be nice but is not
16. Cry crocodile tears - To pretend to be upset
17. Make a mountain out of a molehill - Make something that is not important into a big deal