

FIGURE OF SPEECH

A figure of speech is a rhetorical device that achieves a special effect by using words in a distinctive way

Types of Figure of speech

1. Alliteration: The repetition of an initial consonant sound.
Example: She sells seashells by the seashore.
2. Anaphora: The repetition of the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or verses.
Example: Unfortunately, I was in the wrong place at the wrong time on the wrong day.
3. Antithesis: The juxtaposition of contrasting ideas in balanced phrases.
Example: As Abraham Lincoln said, "Folks who have no vices have very few virtues."
4. Apostrophe: Directly addressing a nonexistent person or an inanimate object as though it were a living being.
Example: "Oh, you stupid car, you never work when I need you to," Bert sighed.
5. Assonance: Identity or similarity in sound between internal vowels in neighboring words.
Example: How now, brown cow?
6. Chiasmus: A verbal pattern in which the second half of an expression is balanced against the first but with the parts reversed.
Example: The famous chef said people should live to eat, not eat to live.
7. Euphemism: The substitution of an inoffensive term for one considered offensively explicit.
Example: "We're teaching our toddler how to go potty," Bob said.
8. Hyperbole: An extravagant statement; the use of exaggerated terms for the purpose of emphasis or heightened effect.
Example: I have a ton of things to do when I get home.
9. Irony: The use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning. Also, a statement or situation where the meaning is contradicted by the appearance or presentation of the idea.
Example: "Oh, I love spending big bucks," said my dad, a notorious penny pincher.
10. Litotes: A figure of speech consisting of an understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by negating its opposite.
Example: A million dollars is no small chunk of change.
11. Metaphor: An implied comparison between two dissimilar things that have something in common.
Example: "All the world's a stage."
12. Metonymy: A figure of speech in a word or phrase is substituted for another with which it's closely associated; also, the rhetorical strategy of describing something indirectly by referring to things around it.
Example: "That stuffed suit with the briefcase is a poor excuse for a salesman," the manager said angrily.
13. Onomatopoeia: The use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to.
Example: The clap of thunder went bang and scared my poor dog.
14. Oxymoron: A figure of speech in which incongruous or contradictory terms appear side by side.
Example: "He popped the jumbo shrimp in his mouth."
15. Paradox: A statement that appears to contradict itself.
Example: "This is the beginning of the end," said Eeyore, always the pessimist.
16. Personification: A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.
Example: That kitchen knife will take a bite out of your hand if you don't handle it safely.
17. Pun: A play on words, sometimes on different senses of the same word and sometimes on the similar sense or sound of different words.
Example: Jessie looked up from her breakfast and said, "A boiled egg every morning is hard to beat."
18. Simile: A stated comparison (usually formed with "like" or "as") between two fundamentally dissimilar things that have certain qualities in common.

Example: Roberto was white as a sheet after he walked out of the horror movie.

19. Synecdoche: A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole.

Example: Tina is learning her ABC's in preschool.

20. Understatement: A figure of speech in which a writer or speaker deliberately makes a situation seem less important or serious than it is.

Example: "You could say Babe Ruth was a decent ballplayer," the reporter said with a wink.

Questions Based On Figure Of Speech

Those hours, that with gentle work did frame
 The lovely gaze where every eye doth dwell,
 Will play the tyrants to the very same
 And that unfair which fairly doth excel;
 For never-resting time leads summer on
 To hideous winter, and confounds him there;
 Sap checked with frost, and lusty leaves quite gone,
 Beauty o'er-snowed and bareness every where:
 Then were not summer's distillation left,
 A liquid prisoner pent in walls of glass,
 Beauty's effect with beauty were bereft,
 Nor it, nor no remembrance what it was:
 But flowers distilled, though they with winter meet,
 Leese but their show; their substance still lives sweet.

1. In context to the given extract, which of the following *figure of speech* is used?

A. Anaphora B. Alliteration
 B. Assonance D. Antithesis

2. What is the tone of the author in the given extract?

A. Rhetorical B. Poetic
 C. Romantic D. Emotional

3. Which of the following *figure of speech* is used in the given extract?

A. Assonance B. Anaphora
 C. Alliteration C. Chiasmus

4. And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
 Thrilled me – filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
 So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating,
 "Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door –
 Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door; –
 This it is and nothing more."

What is the *figure of speech* used by author in the given extract?

A. Alliteration B. Assonance
 C. Anaphora D. Antithesis

5. "Her immobility before me was clearly expectant and my part was to speak for my brother from the realm of forgetful shades. I was deeply moved at my responsibility and at her distress. I would have given anything for the power to soothe her frail soul, tormenting itself in its invincible ignorance like a small bird beating about the cruel wires of cage Nothing easier than to say, Have no fear ! Nothing more difficult. How does one kill fear, I wonder? Which of the following *figure of speech* is used here?

A. Metaphor B. Simile
 C. Personification D. Alliteration

6. "I don't love you" he said. Laughter rang through my ears. I thought that I've been hurt before, but no one's ever left me quite this sore. His words cut deeper than a knife. But I don't know if I will make it out alive. In the given extract which figure of speech is used here?

A. Metaphor B. Simile
 C. Hyperbole D. Alliteration

7. I want to tell you how welcome you are to the White House. I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered together at the White House, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone. Someone once said that Thomas Jefferson was a gentleman of 32 who

could calculate an eclipse, survey an estate, tie an artery, plan an edifice, try a cause, break a horse, and dance the minuet. Whatever he may have lacked, if he could have had his former colleague, Mr. Franklin, here we all would have been impressed.

Which of the following figure of speech is used in the given extract?

- A. Hyperbole B. Oxymoron
C. Chiasmus D. Euphemism.

8. Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate!
O anything, of nothing first create!
O heavy lightness! Serious vanity!
Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!
Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!
This love feel I, that feel no love in this.
Dost thou not laugh?

Which of the following figure of speech is used over here?

- A. Onomatopoeia B. Oxymoron
C. Paradox D. Pun

9. I graduated from New Haven in 1915, just a quarter of a century after my father, and a little later I participated in that delayed Teutonic migration known as the Great War. I enjoyed the counter-raid so thoroughly that I came back restless. Instead of being the warm centre of the world, the Middle West now seemed like the ragged edge of the universe—so I decided to go East and learn the bond business.

Which of the following terms acts as an example of synecdoche for the Great War?

- A. Delayed Teutonic migration
B. Counter-raid
C. Bond business
D. Ragged edge

10. Choose the best synecdoche definition from the following statements:

- A. A substitution of one term for another.
B. A substitution of one related term for another.
C. A substitution of a term that is part of a whole for the whole, or vice versa.
D. A substitution of one term with another.

11. Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answered it.
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest—
For Brutus is an honorable man;
So are they all, all honorable men.

Which of the following figure of speech is present in the given passage?

- A. Metonymy B. Synecdoche
C. Metaphor D. Simile

12. "Blackberries
Big as the ball of my thumb, and dumb as eyes
Ebon in the hedges, fat
With blue-red juices. These they squander on my fingers.
I had not asked for such a blood sisterhood; they must love me.
They accommodate themselves to my milk bottle, flattening their sides."
In the given extract which of the following figure of speech is used here
A. Personification B. Metaphor
C. Simile D. Alliteration

13. I cannot say that I think you are very generous to the ladies; for, whilst you are proclaiming peace and good-will to men, emancipating all nations, you insist upon retaining an absolute power over wives.
"But you must remember that arbitrary power is like most other things which are very hard, very liable to be broken; and, notwithstanding all your wise laws and maxims, we have it in our power, not only to free ourselves, but to subdue our masters, and without violence, throw both your natural and legal authority at our feet."
Which of the following figure of speech is used over here?

- A. Litotes B. Hyperbole
 C. Metaphor D. Simile

14. "His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead."
 Which of the following figure of speech is used here in the given extract?
 A. Alliteration B. Anaphora
 C. Assonance D. Simile
15. Upon the murderer I invoke this curse whether he is one man and all unknown, or one of many may he wear out his life in misery to miserable doom! 270 If with my knowledge he lives at my hearth I pray that I myself may feel my curse. On you I lay my charge to fulfill all this for me, for the God, and for this land of ours destroyed and blighted, by the God forsaken. 275 Even were this no matter of God's ordinance it would not fit you so to leave it lie, unpurified, since a good man is dead and one that was a king. Search it out. Since I am now the holder of his office, 280 And have his bed and wife that once was his, and had his line not been unfortunate we would have common children (fortune leaped upon his head) because of all these things, I fight in his defense as for my father, 285 and I shall try all means to take the murderer of Laius the son of Labdacus the son of Polydorus and before him of Cadmus and before him of Agenor.
 Which of the following figure of speech is used in the given extract?
 A. Paradox B. Litotes
 C. Irony D. Hyperbole

Answers & Explanation

1. Option B is correct
2. Shakespeare's poetry, especially his famous sonnets, were lined with alliteration due to the repetition of an initial consonant sound here it is B (Beauty, bereft, beauty, bareness Typically it happens irregularly, but it is always used to great effect. Here, it adds to the romantic tone of the poem.
 It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.
3. Option A is correct
 Explanation: The repetitive structure used in the above lines make it the most memorable and remarkable start of a narrative the word "it" – repeated all the way through the passage makes focus more on the traits of the "age"
 As Anaphora is a technique where several phrases or verses begin with the same word or words.
4. Option B is correct.
 Explanation: The first line repeats the /ur/ sound, as in *bird*. The second line starts with the repetition of the short /i/ sound, and ends with the repetition of the short /e/ sound. The fourth line repeats the long /i/ sound twice. The third line has a short /i/ sound twice. The last line has again short /i/ sound repeated four times as the Anaphora is used where Identity or similarity in sound between internal vowels in neighboring words
5. Correct option is D
 In these lines from *Lord Jim*, the helplessness of the soul is being compared with a bird in a cage, beating itself against the merciless wires to be free hence it is simile
6. Option A is correct
 Explanation:
 Words don't materialize into sharp objects. In this metaphor, someone has said something hurtful to another so the figure of speech used here is Metaphor.
7. Option A is correct.
 Explanation:
 When hyperbole is carefully placed into a speech, it can help you really punch your points. A tiny bit of exaggeration may be enough to perk up the ears of your audience.
8. Option B is correct
 Explanation: We can notice here, a series of oxymora being employed when Romeo confronts the love of an inaccessible woman. An intense emotional effect is produced, to highlight his mental conflict by the use of contradictory pairs of words, such as "hating love," "heavy lightness," "bright smoke," "cold fire," and "sick health".

9. B is the correct answer.
 The phrase “delayed Teutonic migration” does refer to the war but is neither part of the war nor is the war part of it, so it is not an example of synecdoche. Meanwhile the term “counter-raid” acts as one small part of the war but stands in for the whole.
10. *Explanation:*
 C is the correct answer. While A and B are also true, they are not specific enough. A is more similar to the definition of metaphor, while B is similar to the definition of metonymy and D is vague.
11. *Option A is correct.*
Explanation:
 Mark Anthony uses “ears” to say that he wants the people present to listen to him attentively. It is a metonymy because the word “ears” replaces the concept of paying attention.
12. *Option A is correct.*
Explanation:
 She’s using personification to illustrate her relationship with these blackberries, demonstrating a unique bond with them. Even without the context of the whole poem, Plath’s use of personification shows us that these blackberries aren’t just fruit to her.
13. *Option A is correct.*
Explanation:
 One of the founding fathers, had a wife who was a strong believer in women’s rights. In one of her letters, she condemns her husband’s hypocrisy in touting liberty while opposing women’s liberation at home. The litotes in her letter thinly veils the sharpness of her critique – which is pretty biting for a woman of that time.
14. *Option A is correct.*
Explanation: Alliterations are with “s” and “f” in the phrases “swooned slowly” and “falling faintly”.
15. *Option C is correct.*
Explanation: The above lines are an illustration of verbal and dramatic irony. It was predicted that a man guilty of killing his father and marrying his own mother brought A curse on the city and its people. In the above-mentioned lines, Oedipus curses the man who is the cause of the curse. He is ignorant of the fact that he himself is that man, and thus he is cursing himself. The audience, on the other hand, knows the situation.