

# What are Figures of Speech?

Figures of speech are an integral part of any language, which are used extensively not only in our day-to-day speech but also in written texts and oral literature. These are a word or a phrase used in a distinctive way to produce a rhetorical effect. To say in very simple terms, it is a phrase whose actual meaning is different from its literal meaning. These are developed and expressed through a variety of different rhetorical techniques. All of us use different figures of speech in our daily conversations, both deliberately and subconsciously.

## Types of Figures of Speech

There is a wide range of different types of figures of speech that are used in our daily communication. Let us take a look at some of the most popular ones that are used extensively:

### Personification

Personification is a figure of speech that attributes human nature or human qualities to abstract or inanimate objects. For example, we often use the phrases like the howling wind, dancing leaves, time flies, etc. Some examples of personification in a sentence are:

- The opportunity knocked at his door
- The plants in her house silently begged to be watered

### Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech that is used for implying a comparison between two things that have something in common but are in general different from each other. Some examples of the usage of metaphors in a sentence is as follows:

- It is raining cats and dogs
- He is the star of our class

### Simile

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two things that are different from each other but have similar qualities. These are generally formed through the usage of the words 'as' or 'like'. Some examples of similes in a sentence include:

- He is as brave as a lion
- Her expression was as cold as ice

## **Alliteration**

Alliteration is a type of figure of speech in which a sentence consists of a series of words that have the same consonant sound at the beginning. Some popular examples of alliteration in a sentence include:

- She sells seashells on the seashore
- A good cook could cook as many cookies as a good cook who could cook cookies

## **Onomatopoeia**

This a figure of speech that is used to express a sound. To be more precise, it involves the use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the action or object referred to i.e. hiss, clap, etc. Some examples of onomatopoeia include:

- The buzzing bee flew over my head
- The stone hit the water with a splash

## **Hyperbole**

A hyperbole is a figure of speech that consists of an exaggeration. It is the usage of exaggerated terms in order to emphasize or heighten the effect of something. Some examples of using hyperboles in a sentence include:

- I have told you a million times to not touch my stuff!
- She has got a pea-sized brain

## **Euphemism**

Euphemism is the usage of a mild word in substitution of something that is more explicit or harsh when referring to something unfavorable or unpleasant. Some examples of the usage of this figure of speech include:

- This mall has good facilities for differently-abled people
- He passed away in his sleep

## **Irony**

Irony or sarcasm is a figure of speech in which the usage of words conveys the opposite of their literal meaning. These are often used in a humorous manner. Some examples of irony include:

- Your hands are as clean as mud
- The dinner you served was as hot as ice

### Anaphora

It is a repetition of a word or phrase at the start of several sentences or clauses. Some of the examples of anaphora figures of speech are as follows:

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "I Have a Dream" Speech
- Charles Dickens: A Tale of Two Cities

### Apostrophe

An apostrophe is a figure of speech. It addresses the subject that is not present in the work. In this case, the object is absent or inanimate. Here are some of the examples of apostrophes.

- Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are
- Welcome, O life!