

Figurative Language



STUDY ISLAND

Figurative Language

Figurative language is one element of a writer's style.

It is a tool writers use to make their writing more **descriptive** and **colorful**.

There are three main kinds of figurative language:

simile

metaphor

personification

Simile

A **simile** compares two things using *like* or *as*.

The cat's fur felt just **like** silk.

James runs as swiftly **as** a deer.

Although my cousin was speaking on a cell phone from across the ocean, her voice was clear as a bell.



Above, the writer compares a voice to

- A. an ocean.
- B. a cousin.
- C. a bell.
- D. a cell phone.

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Metaphor

A **metaphor** compares two things by stating that one thing *is* the other. It is a comparison, but it does not use *like* or *as*.

The cat's fur **is** silk.

Running swiftly, James **is** a deer.

I tried to convince her to adopt the kitten, but she has a heart of stone.

She *has a heart of stone* is another way of saying that she

- A. has a medical problem with her heart.
- B. would be a responsible pet owner.
- C. does not want to help the kitten.
- D. doesn't know how to care for a kitten.



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Personification

Personification is giving non-human things human qualities.

The breeze **tickled** her neck.

As they crossed the desert, the sun shone down **cruelly**.

We knew there was a huge storm coming. We fastened the shutters on all the windows. Then we made sure we had enough drinking water. When I looked outside, the trees were dancing in the wind.

Which sentence gives a human quality to something that is not human?

- A. We knew there was a huge storm coming.
- B. We fastened the shutters on all the windows.
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Guided Practice with Figurative Language

“Come on,” Tanya said. “We don’t have all day.” Her brother Fredo was as slow as molasses, and she was tired of waiting for him. The clock ticked impatiently.



1. Why does the writer compare Fredo to molasses?
 - A. Molasses is made from sugar cane, and Fredo likes sugar.
 - B. Molasses is sweet, and so is Fredo.
 - C. Molasses runs very slowly, and Fredo moves slowly.
 - D. Molasses will not stop running, and neither will Fredo.

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“Come on,” Tanya said. “We don’t have all day.” Her brother Fredo was as slow as molasses, and she was tired of waiting for him. The clock ticked impatiently.



2. Which sentence gives a human quality to something that is not human?
- A. We don’t have all day.
 - B. Her brother Fredo was as slow as molasses.
 - C. She was tired of waiting for him.
 - D. The clock ticked impatiently.

Guided Practice with Figurative Language

Tanisha's grandfather was as old as the hills and as bald as an eagle, but he was still as sharp as a tack. Tanisha always loved to visit him. His heart was made of pure gold. He was the most generous person she had ever met.



3. The first sentence contains three examples of
- A. similes.
 - B. metaphors.
 - C. personification.
 - D. verbs.

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Tanisha's grandfather was as old as the hills and as bald as an eagle, but he was still as sharp as a tack. Tanisha always loved to visit him. His heart was made of pure gold. He was the most generous person she had ever met.



4. The author compares the grandfather's heart to
- A. an eagle.
 - B. pure gold.
 - C. a generous person.
 - D. the hills.

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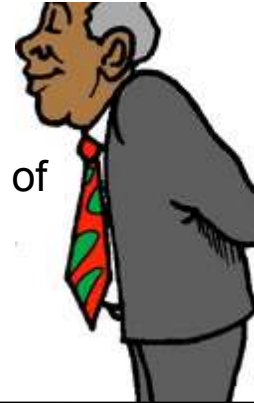
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