

21 Words About Figurative Language

Learn Words About a New Subject

Vocabulary Words

figure of speech

literal

metaphor

personification

simile

Word Learning Tip!

When you read about a new subject, you may see words you have not seen before in your everyday reading. These words are often the longest and most difficult in the text. They tell you something specific about the subject. To learn these new words, think about the big idea or subject about which you are reading. In this lesson, all content words deal with figurative language, a special way to use words.

Vocabulary Building Strategy

To learn the meaning of content words that tell about a new subject, make connections between the unknown word and the big idea or subject. The new word will tell something specific about that big idea or subject. Tie together the big idea and the meanings of other content words that you know in the text. This will help you determine the exact meaning of the unknown content words.

Directions As you look at the pictures below and on page 153, think about how the boldface words are connected to the topic of figurative language. Use the examples and the words below them to learn the exact meaning of each vocabulary word.



This is a **literal** statement. It means just what the words say.

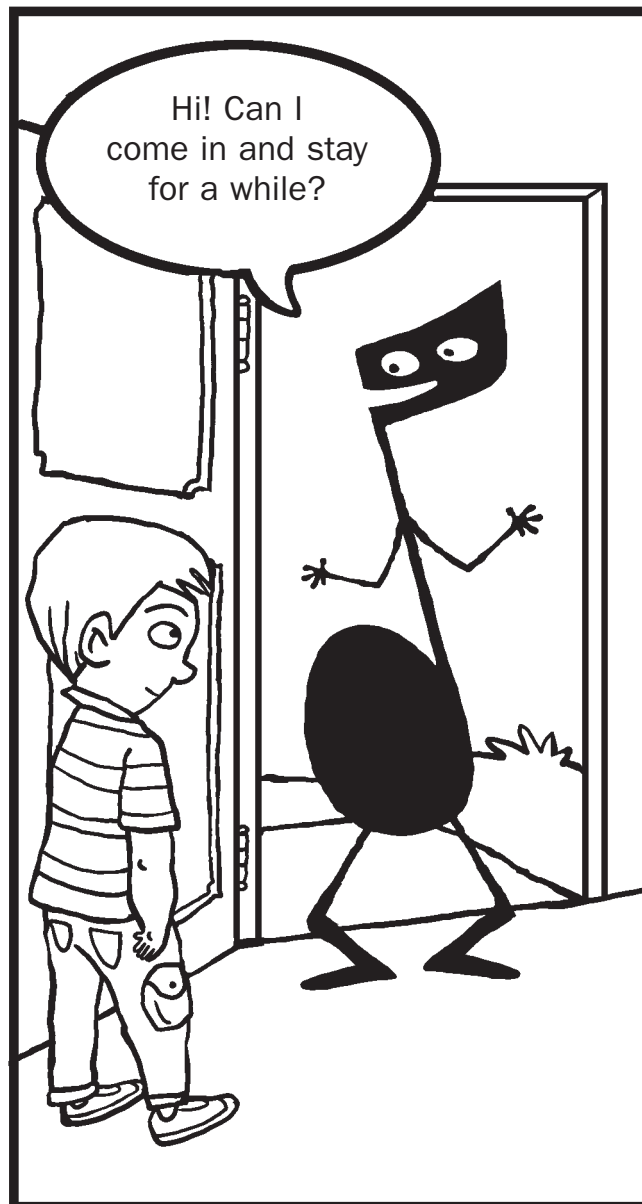


This is a **figure of speech**. It says the same thing as the **literal** statement. But it says it in a poetic or imaginative way by putting two words together that don't usually connect to the same big idea, like *music* and *company*.

A **simile** is one kind of **figure of speech**. It compares two very different content words by saying one word is like another. “Music is like a friend” is a **simile**. A **simile** uses the word *as* or *like* to make this comparison between two words.



A **metaphor** is another kind of **figure of speech**. It compares two very different words by saying that one is another. “Music is my best friend” is a **metaphor**. The words are not **literal**. They do not mean exactly what they say. Instead, they create an imaginative picture that shows an emotion, thought, or thing. This metaphor shows how much the boy enjoys music.



In this scene, a musical note acts like a person. It walks into a room and talks. Making a thing, idea, or word into a person is called **personification**. It's another kind of **figure of speech**.

21 Words About Figurative Language

Connect Words and Meanings

figure of speech

literal

metaphor

personification

simile

Directions Read each definition and example below. Then complete the sentence that follows.

- 1. figure of speech** (noun): an expression in which words are used in a poetic way

Example: He is as strong as an ox.

Sentence: The **figure of speech** “as strong as an ox” means _____.

- 2. literal** (adjective): meaning exactly what the words say

Example: He is a very strong man.

Sentence: It is important to write the **literal** truth when _____.

- 3. simile** (noun): a figure of speech that uses the word *like* or *as* in which two very different things are said to be similar

Example: Her eyes are as blue as the sky.

Sentence: “The baby is as sweet as sugar” is a **simile** because _____.

- 4. metaphor** (noun): a figure of speech in which one thing is said to be another thing

Example: My love is a rose.

Sentence: A **metaphor** is different from a simile because _____.

- 5. personification** (noun): a figure of speech in which a nonliving thing acts like a human being

Example: The soft breeze ran its fingers through the leaves of the tree.

Sentence: The breeze is acting like a **person** because _____.

Directions Write *literal* or *figure of speech* next to each statement below.

- 6.** My love is as deep as the sea. _____
- 7.** The depth of the water is 36 feet. _____
- 8.** The sun took pity on the old man and warmed him with her rays. _____
- 9.** A book is food for the mind. _____
- 10.** The book costs \$21 _____



Search for Figures of Speech Look in a book of poems. Find an example of a simile, a metaphor, and personification. Write these figures of speech in your personal word journal and label them.

Use Content Words

figure of speech

literal

metaphor

personification

simile

Directions Read these instructions for how to write a poem. Fill each blank with the vocabulary word or phrase that fits best. You will use each word twice. (The plural of *figure of speech* is *figures of speech*.)

1. A poem can express your feelings or tell your thoughts about a topic. But you don't want your poem to use only _____ language, or language that means exactly what the words say. Use some figurative language, too.
2. Try to use some figures of speech. Don't just say, "I feel angry." Use a _____ such as "I could roar like a lion."
3. If you are feeling angry a lot, you might use a _____ such as "I am a lion, roaring with anger."
4. Or you could try _____. You could take a feeling and make it act like a person. For example, you could say, "Anger walked the streets of the city and made everyone afraid."
5. A poem can be like a song. It can have a regular rhythm. The lines can rhyme. These poems use word pictures called similes, metaphors, or personification. Each one is a _____.
6. Other poems can be in free verse. These poems don't rhyme. The rhythm is the same as ordinary talking. But these are still poems because they use _____ to create word pictures and express thoughts poetically.
7. A _____ uses the word *like* or *as* to show that two things are alike or similar. An example is: "I feel as swift as the wind when I run."
8. A _____ is a stronger way to say that two things are alike. An example is: "When I run, I am the wind." Can you see the difference?
9. _____ creates a word picture that can be fun to read. Take a thing or idea and make it act like a person. For example: "The clouds are weeping today."
10. Similes, metaphors, and personification are all ways for poets to express their ideas. These figures of speech are not _____ statements. They don't mean exactly what the words say. But word pictures make a poem have more meaning than just saying the literal truth. So use your imagination and see what word pictures you can create.



Create Figures of Speech Pick a topic you would like to write about in a poem. Write a simile, a metaphor, and a personification about that topic. Save these in your personal word journal.

21 Words About Figurative Language

Put Words Into Action

figure of speech

literal

metaphor

personification

simile

Directions Read each item below. Pay special attention to the vocabulary word in the instructions. Then complete the sentence. Write your answer in the blank.

1. Write a **metaphor** that expresses your feelings about a rainy day.

2. Write a **simile** that shows how you feel about eating ice cream.

3. Write a **figure of speech** that imaginatively tells your ideas about winning a big game.

4. Use **literal** language to tell how you feel after you win a big game.

5. Use **personification** to show what your refrigerator thinks every time you open the door.

Directions Help Carlotta complete this composition about a poem she read. Choose the correct vocabulary word from the two in parentheses. Write the missing vocabulary word in the blank. Use each word once.

I liked the way the poet used (6) _____ (*simile, personification*) to describe the moon. He made the moon seem so shy that she often hid her light so people couldn't find her. There was one (7) _____ (*metaphor, simile*) I liked a lot. It is "The light of the moon was as gentle as a cat's purr." I know these words were not meant to have their (8) _____ (*literal, figure of speech*), or exact, meaning, because the light of the moon and a cat's purr are two very different things. But this (9) _____ (*figure of speech, personification*) created an interesting word picture in my mind. Another figure of speech I liked a lot was this (10) _____ (*metaphor, literal*): "The moon is a silver coin tossed in the sky."



Write Figurative and Literal Statements Choose any two topics. Write one statement that is literal about one topic and one statement that is figurative about the other topic.

Review and Extend

figure of speech

literal

metaphor

personification

simile

BONUS WORDS Here are two new words. Remember that these words all deal with the same big idea as your vocabulary words. That means that even if you have never seen these words before, you know that they have to do with figurative language. You can use what you already know about figurative language to understand the meanings of these words.

image a word picture

vivid sharp and clear

Directions Read each item below. Choose the vocabulary word or the new content word that best fits the context. Write it in the blank.

- Figurative language creates _____ pictures in your mind. It helps you see things in new and unusual ways.
- Sometimes the _____, or picture, may surprise you. For example, thinking of a cat as a comma on a rug makes you see the cat in an unexpected way.
- You can identify a(n) _____ because it always contains the word *like* or *as*. When you say, “He is as clever as a fox,” you are using this figure of speech.
- A _____ is more direct. When you say “He is a fox,” you are using a metaphor.
- “The car hummed happily as we drove along a country road.” This is an example of _____, or making a thing act like a person.
- _____ language is the opposite of figurative language. When you use this type of language, you mean exactly what you say.



Make a Comparison Pick two poems that you like. Make a list of the ways they are similar. Do they both use similes, metaphors, and personification? Do they both have rhyme and rhythm? Next, make a list of the ways they are different. Then write a comparison between the two, telling how they are alike and different.

21 Words About Figurative Language

Check Your Mastery

Directions Read each item below. Write the vocabulary word that best fits in each sentence.

1. “Her eyes are like stars” is a _____. It makes a comparison using *like* or *as*.
A. personification B. metaphor C. simile
2. “Her eyes are stars” is a _____. It says that one thing is another.
A. personification B. metaphor C. simile
3. If you were writing a recipe telling how to make pizza, you would use _____ language instead of figurative language.
A. literal B. simile C. figure of speech
4. “A flower opened her petals and smiled at me” is an example of _____.
A. personification B. metaphor C. simile
5. A _____ can be a simile or a metaphor.
A. literal B. personification C. figure of speech
6. “I’m hungry” is a _____ statement.
A. figure of speech B. personification C. literal
7. “I’m as hungry as a bear” is a _____.
A. metaphor B. simile C. personification
8. “Kindness whispered in her ear and told her to help needy people.”
This sentence is a figure of speech called a _____.
A. simile B. metaphor C. personification
9. “She is wearing her heart on her sleeve” is a _____.
A. figure of speech B. personification C. literal statement
10. “You are my shining star” is a _____.
A. simile B. metaphor C. personification