

What is a Figure of Speech?

A figure of speech is a special or imaginative way of using words to create an effect beyond their ordinary or literal meaning. It makes language more expressive, vivid, and memorable.

Why Are Figures of Speech Used?

- ✓ Make language more expressive and vivid
- ✓ Create emphasis and emotional impact
- ✓ Make writing and speech more interesting
- ✓ Help readers imagine and remember ideas

Main Types of Figures of Speech

Metaphor

Comparison using like or as.

Example:

She is as busy as a bee.

Direct comparison between unlike things.

Example:

Time is a thief.

Personification

Giving human qualities to non-human things.

Example:

The wind whispered.

Alliteration

Repetition of initial consonant sounds.

Example:

Peter picked purple plums.

Deliberate exaggeration for emphasis.

Example:

I have told you a million times.

A word that imitates a sound.

Example:

The bees buzzed.

Oxymoron

Contradictory words placed together.

Example:

Deafening silence.

Contrast between expectation and reality.

Example:

A fire station burns down.

A seemingly contradictory statement with a deeper truth.

Example:

Less is more.

Figure of Speech vs Literary Device

Figure of Speech

- A special use of language for expressive effect.
- Focuses on words and meaning.

Example:

Time is a thief. (Metaphor)

Literary Device

- A broader term that includes many techniques.
- Figures of speech are one type of literary device.

Example:

Foreshadowing, imagery, metaphor, etc.

Literal Language

- Uses words in their ordinary sense.
- Gives direct information.

Example:

The man is very strong.

Figurative Language

- Goes beyond ordinary meaning.
- Creates imagery or special effects.

Example:

The man is as strong as an ox. (Simile)