

**Figurative language** is language that doesn't have its ordinary, literal meaning. Authors use figurative language to describe things, explain ideas, and create strong, powerful images in readers' minds. Common types of figures of speech are simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. Identifying and analyzing figurative language can help you better understand a text.

- A **simile** is a comparison between two **unlike things that have something in common**. A simile always uses the words *like* or *as*. *This steak is as tough as an old boot.*

This is a simile because it's a comparison that uses the word *as*. It compares two things: a steak and an old boot. It helps us understand that the steak is very hard to cut or chew.

- A **metaphor** compares two different things **that have something in common**, without using words *like* or *as*.

*The snow was a bright white blanket.*

This is a metaphor because it's a comparison that doesn't use the words *like* or *as*. It compares two things: the snow and a white blanket. It helps us understand that the snow is covering the ground completely, the way a blanket would cover a bed.

- **Personification** is giving human traits (qualities, feelings, actions, or characteristics) to non-living objects (things, colors, qualities, or ideas). It describes a thing as though it were a person. *The leaves danced in the breeze.*

This sentence describes leaves doing something that people do—dancing. It helps us understand that the leaves were moving in a graceful way.

- **Hyperbole** is a powerful literary device used in writing and everyday speech to create impact, drama, or humor through extreme exaggeration. You've likely used hyperbole yourself — even if you didn't know it.

Writers use hyperbole to: Create strong impressions. Add humor or irony. Make ideas more memorable.

Think of it as turning the volume up on your words to make your message stand out.

Examples of hyperbole in everyday language:

*"This backpack weighs a ton."* (It's heavy, but not *literally* 2,000 pounds.)

*The line at the coffee shop was endless — I thought I'd grow old and die before getting my latte.*

The speaker doesn't believe the line *literally* never ends. The exaggeration shows frustration or impatience in a humorous, relatable way.

- **Onomatopoeia**: The use of words to imitate sounds is called onomatopoeia. Examples: Bang, pop, hiss, and sizzle
  1. Her heels **clacked** on the hardwood floor.
  2. The **clanging** pots and pans awoke the baby.