10 essential figures of speech

Figures of speech are used to enrich, affirm, and illustrate both oral and written language. You can use them to more vividly express your ideas and opinions.



Here are some examples:

Simile

My goosebumps felt like ants marching across my skin.

Metaphor

The snow was **a white blanket** covering the hills beyond her house.

Personification

The sleepy town **awoke** as the thunder **roared**.

Repetition

Away flew the birds, away flew the clouds, away flew my heart.

Climax

The blazing midday sun warms us, burns us, reduces us to ashes.

Antithesis

As we crept slowly into the darkened cave, my brother whispered, "Keep your mouth **closed** but your eyes **open**."

"It was the **best** of times, it was the **worst** of times,..." Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

Oxymoron

Visiting my old home brings back bittersweet childhood memories of both love and loss.

Hyperbole

My trip throughout Europe cost an arm and a leg.

Euphemism

Right before the main course was served, Emily politely excused herself to powder her nose.

Metonymy

I ordered the most expensive **dish** on the menu.



To learn more about figures of speech, go to the Alloprof website! www.alloprof.qc.ca

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