

Figures of speech overview

Here is an overview of the different figures of speech.

Simile

In simile we make a comparison between two distinctly different objects which have at least one common trait. The simile is usually introduced by words such as like, so or as.

My Love is like a red, red rose.

A comparison made between two objects of the same kind is not a simile.

A large number of similes are used in everyday speech. Common examples are given below:

As proud of a peacock

As old as the hills

As cold as ice

As good as gold

Metaphor

A metaphor is different from a simile. Here we suggest a likeness between two objects of distinctly different nature. Note that a metaphor does not state that one thing is like another. It boldly claims that the two objects are one and the same.

Examples are:

Life is a dream. (Here the speaker establishes a likeness between life and dream by saying that they are one and the same.)

Note that we can convert a metaphor into a simile by using the words like or as. In the same way, a simile can be converted into a metaphor.

She is like a red rose. (Simile)

She is a red rose. (Metaphor)

Personification

In personification, inanimate objects and abstract ideas are spoken of as if they were endowed with life and intelligence.

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Example

Necessity is the mother of invention.

Apostrophe

An apostrophe is a direct address either to an absent person or to a nonhuman entity.