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1

Figures of Speech; Using Figures of Speech

Figures of Speech

English speakers and writers frequently use figures of speech. Figures of speech are expressions that do not literally mean what they say, instead using words to create vivid pictures or comparisons.

A simile compares unlike things by using the words *like* or *as*.

The dewdrops glistened like diamonds when the sun touched them.

“Eww,” Nan said, “those bananas are as green as grass.”

A metaphor states that one thing is another without using the words *like* or *as*.

The Lord is my rock and my fortress.

Silas was a bear of a man.

Metaphors can sometimes be hidden. In the example below, the statement *The paperwork was a mountain* is only implied—not stated directly. The expression is still a metaphor.

A mountain of paperwork awaited Joyce on her return to the office.

Personification gives human characteristics to nonliving things.

The trees sighed and whispered through the night.

A hyperbole is an exaggeration used to make a statement.

We waited forever before being served.

A Underline each figure of speech. Write *simile*, *metaphor*, *personification*, or *hyperbole* to label it. Underlines may vary as long as the core of the figure of speech is identified.

1. _____ The wheat waved and danced in the light breeze.
2. _____ The news was a crushing blow to the assembled delegates.
3. _____ This transmission shifts like butter.
4. _____ Rikers Creek murmured and laughed to itself on its way south.
5. _____ “I pulled the rope a million times, and the mower still won’t start,”
Jessica said.
6. _____ A flood of migrants poured through the border when it was opened.



Using Figures of Speech

Use fresh, interesting figures of speech. *White as a sheet* and *old as the hills* are stale, overused expressions.

Laughter rose like bubbles.

Laughter bubbled up like soapsuds.

Avoid mixing metaphors. A mixed metaphor compares one thing at the start of a metaphor and ends up comparing it to something else.

Mixed: The teacher kept a tight rein on her revved-up students.

(A *tight rein* refers to horses, but *revved-up* refers to cars.)

Better: The teacher kept a tight rein on her rambunctious students.

B Rewrite the sentence, replacing the underlined simile with a fresh one.

- ☐ 7. The inside of the cave was as black as night.

☐ **C** Rewrite the sentence, correcting the mixed metaphor.

8. Riot control police struggled to fence in the boiling crowd.

Review

D Underline each verbal or verbal phrase. Write *participial*, *gerund*, or *infinitive* to label it.

9. _____ Standing on the bridge, we could see the ice jammed against the pillars below.
10. _____ Carlos wants to become a doctor; then he hopes to help people in Mexico.
11. _____ "Sure," Mom said. "You can help me by tilling the garden."
12. _____ Paul's mission, preaching the Gospel, took him to many cities.
13. _____ Kenneth, explaining his project, spoke clearly and loudly enough for all.
14. _____ This evening I want to finish *Kavik, the Wolf Dog*.

**E Write the possessive form of each expression.**

15. _____ the shoes of Gabriella and Maria
16. _____ the father of Jaden and Ashley
17. _____ the decision of the committee
18. _____ the parents of my brother-in-law

F Write *vt* if it is transitive or *vi* if it is intransitive to identify each underlined verb. If it is transitive, circle the receiver of the action.

19. _____ In 1867, the United States bought Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000—less than 2 cents per acre.
20. _____ Many Americans disapproved of the purchase, thinking it was a waste of money.
21. _____ Alaska was nicknamed “Seward’s Icebox” after William Seward.
22. _____ William Seward, the Secretary of State, had encouraged the purchase.

G Underline the correct verb.

23. Each of those pumpkins **look, looks** rotten at the center.
24. Neither of these bags **is, are** mine; I think they are Nicole’s.

H Write *simple*, *compound*, or *complex* to label each sentence.

25. _____ Ella walked to the window, opened the drapes, and enjoyed the warm sunshine.
26. _____ The explorer Vitus Bering and his crew, who were Russians, were the first Europeans in Alaska.
27. _____ The price of gasoline has risen drastically, and our family has reduced our trips to town.

I Circle the letter of the correctly punctuated sentence in each pair.

28. a. Two words describe Alaskan brown bears: massive and formidable.
b. Two things about Alaskan brown bears that amaze me are: their size and ferociousness.
29. a. The Alaskan cities with the greatest population are as follows Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.
b. The Alaskan cities with the greatest population are as follows: Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.



Lesson 1

J Circle each comma that should be a semicolon.

30. Alaska is larger than Texas, California, and Montana combined, but its population is smaller than that of any other state except Wyoming.
31. Alaska has beautiful scenery and an abundance of wildlife, therefore, it is a popular vacation spot.

K Put brackets around each dependent clause. Circle the introductory words. Write *adjective* or *adverb* to label the function of the clause.

32. _____ In 1982, the starting line for the Iditarod race was moved to Settlers Bay because there was no snow in Anchorage.
33. _____ Many of the people and dog teams who start the race do not finish.
34. _____ The teams take off at two-minute intervals according to an order that is determined by drawing numbers.

L Match each verb tense with its description.

35. _____ happened in the past
36. _____ will happen before some time in the future
37. _____ happening now
38. _____ happened before something else in the past
39. _____ will happen
40. _____ happened at an indefinite time in the past

- a. present
- b. past
- c. future
- d. present perfect
- e. past perfect
- f. future perfect

M Underline each noun of direct address. Add commas where needed.

41. Peter said, "Master we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net."
42. "Ladies and gentlemen may I have your attention please?" the speaker said.

Penmanship

N Using your best handwriting, copy the sentence about the Alaskan flag.

In October 1926, a contest was held in Alaskan schools for children in Grades 7-12 to submit a design for an Alaskan flag.



Spelling – Patterns

Spelling Words

benign	generator	genius	homogenize	kindred
congenial	generic	genre	ingenuity	malignant
genealogy	generosity	genuine	innate	naive
generation	genesis	germinate	kindergarten	nativity

The root *gen* has to do with family, beginnings, or natural talents and characteristics. It comes from the Proto-Indo-European root *gene* “to give birth; to beget.”

O Write the spelling word that fits each description. Circle each *gen* root.

43. _____ real; not a fake, a substitution, or an imitation
44. _____ a device that produces something such as electricity or smoke
45. _____ pleasant and sociable
46. _____ a specific kind of literature or art
47. _____ the start or origin of something
48. _____ the record of someone’s ancestors
49. _____ to make everything in a substance uniform; used to keep milk fresh
50. _____ problem-solving skill or resourcefulness
51. _____ not a name brand; not distinctive; a general example of its class
52. _____ willingness to give money or things to those in need
53. _____ a talented, smart, or naturally skilled person
54. _____ the average length of time between the birth of parents
the birth of their children

P Write the spelling word that fits each description.

55. _____ to start to grow or sprout
56. _____ a class or category of children between four and six years old
57. _____ a person’s birth or place of birth

Q Write the Section 1 spelling words in your notebook.