

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

Figures of speech overview

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

Example

Necessity is the mother of invention.

Apostrophe

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