

Glossary

- accumulation** the piling up of similar words or phrases which are situated very close to each other in a text.
→ enumeration
e. g.: "The process is wasteful, dangerous, messy and sometimes tragic."
- alliteration** the repetition of initial sounds, normally consonants, at the beginning or in the middle of neighbouring words for rhythmic effect or for emphasis.
→ consonance, anaphora
e. g.: "Girls' power leaves lads lagging behind"
- allusion** the direct or indirect reference to real historical or fictional characters, places, events, or to other literary works that the author wants the reader to recognise, such as the *Bible* or the *Illiad*.
→ reference, indirect citation
e. g.: The headline "Silence of the little lambs: talking skills in decline" (*The Guardian*, 4th January 2003) alludes to the title of the well-known film *The Silence of the Lambs*.
- ambiguity** a word, phrase, sentence, or other communication which can be reasonably interpreted in more than one way.
→ vagueness
e. g.: GROUCHO MARX's classic joke depends on a grammatical ambiguity: "Last night I shot an elephant in my pajamas. What he was doing in pajamas I'll never know."
- anticlimax** the sudden fall from an idea of importance or dignity to something unimportant or ridiculous in comparison, especially at the end of a series. Anticlimax is often used for comic effect.
→ climax
e. g.: "This gives you an idea of his love of God, freedom, justice and sports cars."
- antithesis (pl. antitheses)** establishes a contrasting relationship between two ideas. Antitheses can convey some sense of complexity by admitting opposite or nearly opposite truths.
→ contrast
e. g.: "Human life is everywhere a state in which much is to be endured, and little to be enjoyed." (SAMUEL JOHNSON)
- climax** mounting by degrees through words or sentences of increasing weight and in parallel construction.
→ anticlimax
e. g.: "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some to be chewed and digested."
- ellipsis** the shortening of sentences by dropping a word or words which can be understood from the context
e. g.: "'Been to the theatre lately?' Paul asked."

<p>enumeration</p> <p>→ accumulation</p>	<p>the listing of words usually illustrating one idea or subject. It can stress a certain aspect e.g. by giving a number of similar or synonymous adjectives to describe something</p> <p>e. g.: "I love her eyes, her hair, her nose, her cheeks, her lips and everything else."</p>
<p>euphemism</p> <p>→ periphrase, irony</p>	<p>hiding the real, negative quality of someone or something unpleasant by paraphrasing it in a more positive though often less direct way</p> <p>e. g.: "he has passed away" → "he has died" "the underprivileged" → "the poor"</p>
<p>exclamation</p> <p>→ interjection</p>	<p>conveys a deep emotion or extreme feeling</p> <p>e. g.: sounds like "Oops!", "Yuk!", "Erh!", simple words such as "Gosh!", "Cool!" or phrases like "Not bad!", "What a shame!", "I don't believe it!"</p>
<p>hyperbole</p> <p>→ understatement</p>	<p>an obvious exaggeration or overstatement, not meant to be taken literally, but figuratively</p> <p>e. g.: "There are a thousand reasons why more research is needed on solar energy."</p>
<p>inversion</p> <p>→ stress</p>	<p>switching the usual word order of subject and predicate (verb) in a sentence or phrase</p> <p>e. g.: "Satisfying must it be to be working like that." (→ "It must be satisfying ...")</p>
<p>irony</p> <p>→ hyperbole, euphemism, understatement</p>	<p>the use of words that mean the opposite of what they mean literally; the understanding depends on the author's tone and common cultural values</p> <p>e. g.: "Spoken by a man who is seriously ill: "The future is a bright and beautiful time which I shall enter into with all my energies."</p>
<p>metaphor (adj. metaphorical)</p> <p>→ symbol, allegory</p>	<p>a figure of speech implying an indirect comparison; an object or idea is expressed by an image; both share similar features</p> <p>e. g.: "All the world's a stage/And all the men and women merely players ..." (WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE)</p>
<p>onomatopoeia</p>	<p>words that sound like they mean</p> <p>e. g.: bash, bang, buzz, clatter, hiss, howl, sniff</p>
<p>periphrasis (pl. periphrase)</p>	<p>a descriptive word or phrase is used instead of a proper name</p> <p>e. g.: "The Swan of Avon" (for SHAKESPEARE)</p>

parallelism	the repetition of identical or similar syntactical structures in different parts of a sentence or in neighbouring sentences
→ repetition	e. g.: "Women represent the triumph of matter over mind, just as men represent the triumph of mind over morals." (OSCAR WILDE)
parenthesis (pl. parentheses)	an additional or explanatory word, word group or clause that interrupts a sentence without affecting it otherwise
	e. g.: "Every time I try to think of a good rhetorical example, I rack my brains but – you guessed it – nothing happens."
personification	human qualities, feelings etc. are given to an animal, object or abstract idea
→ metaphor	e. g.: "The ship began to creak and protest as it struggled against the rising sea."
pun	a (mostly humorous) play on words that sound similar or the same but have different meanings
	e. g.: "Some folk are wise, and some are otherwise." (TOBIAS SMOLLETT)
repetition	the repeated use of a word, word group or syntactical structure in a sentence or in neighbouring sentences in order to emphasise an important aspect of the subject matter
→ parallelism	e. g.: "And that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from earth." (ABRAHAM LINCOLN)
rhetorical question	a question which is not followed by an answer as the answer is obvious
→	e. g.: "Don't we all love peace and hate war?"; "Shouldn't we try to be friendlier towards each other?"
symbol	a concrete object, action, character or place that represents or suggests something abstract
→ metaphor, comparison	e. g.: The cross is the symbol of Christianity. The dove is symbolic of peace.
understatement	the deliberate presentation of something as being much less important, valuable etc. than it really is
→ hyperbole, irony	e. g.: "The 1906 San Francisco earthquake interrupted business somewhat in the downtown area."; "He was quite upset." → "He went into a terrible rage."
zeugma	a figure of speech in which a word applies to two others in different senses
	e. g.: "John and his driving licence expired last week."