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| Nuance | A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound |  |
| Euphemism | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A mild or indirect word or expression for one too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. | |  | | Big Boned = fat |
| Oxymoron | A figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction | Jumbo shrimp |
| Allusion | To make an indirect or passing reference to something. | Mona Lisa smile |
| Paradox | A seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true | “I am lying.” |
| Satire | the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, or the like, in exposing, denouncing, or deriding [vice](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/vice), folly, etc. | The Simpsons |
| Sarcasm | The use of irony to mock or convey contempt. |  |
| Irony | Refers to a situation that is not as it would seem. | Getting run over by an ambulance |
| Foil | One that by contrast underscores or enhances the distinctive characteristics of another | Harry Potter and Voldemort  Batman and Joker |
| Parallelism | The use of successive verbal constructions in poetry or prose that correspond in grammatical structure, sound, meter, meaning, etc | I went to the store and bought apples, milk, and bread. |
| Litotes | An understatement made for effect. | It’s merely a flesh wound |
| Anaphora | The repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses. | I have a dream that one day . . . I have a dream . . . |
| Simile | A comparison of two unlike things using like or as | As hungry as a bear |
| Metaphor | A comparison of two unlike things without using like or as | He’s an angry bear |
| Mood | a prevailing emotional tone or general attitude |  |
| Antithesis | A person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else. | Love and Hate  Good and Evil |
| Synecdoche | Something that is referred to indirectly by naming only a part of it. | Wheels = car  Threads = clothes |
| Metonymy | The substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant | Suit=business executive  Washington=government  Sword=military power |
| Assonance | In poetry, the repetition of the sound of a vowel | Eggs beaten, eaten on toast |
| Consonance | The recurrence of similar sounds, esp. consonants, in close proximity | Eggs beaten, eaten on toast |
| Rhetorical Question | A question that does not demand an immediate answer. Often cannot be answered with a simple YES or NO. | What’s the meaning of life? |
| Personification | A figure of speech where animals, ideas, or nonliving objects are given human characteristics | The wind whistled |
| Hyperbole | An over exaggeration for effect | I’m so hungry I could eat a horse |
| Denotation | The actual definition of a word |  |
| Onomatopoeia | Word that imitates or suggests a sound | Pop, Boom |
| Alliteration | The repetition of the first letter of several words in a sentence or phrase. The letters must be consonants. | Great gazelles grazed on grass |