

Types of Figures of Speech

Simile: Two dissimilar things are compared by the use of "like" or "as."

Psalm 1:3 - *And he will be like a tree [firmly] planted by streams of water*

Metaphor: Expresses something by direct comparison, similarity or parallelism.

Genesis 49:9 *"Judah is a lion's whelp. . ."*

Hyperbole: Idea/event stated in exaggerated manner to stress its importance/quantity

John 21:25 - *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they [^]were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself [^]would not contain the books which [^]were written*

Ellipsis: "Omission of a word clearly implied." Often occurs in Hebraism.

Philippians 4:16 *for even in Thessalonica you sent [a gift] more than once for my needs*

Paradox: True statements that appear contradictory. (Could be solved with more understanding).

2 Cor. 12:10 *" . . . for when I am weak, then I am strong."*

An **Antimony** is a type of paradox in which an unavoidable contradictions to pure reasoning occur because of man's limitations in understanding - i.e. God's sovereignty vs man's free will

Romans 3:10 *"There is none who seeks for God"* cf. Isaiah 55:6 *"Seek the Lord. . ."*

Irony: The use of words to express the opposite of what one really means

1 Cor. 4:8-10 *You are already filled. . . become rich. . . become kings. . . prudent. . . strong. . .*

Synecdoche: The whole refers to a part - or a part to the whole

Joshua 7:1,11 *the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan . . . Israel has sinned . . . they have even taken*

Zeugma: A verb or adjective agreeing with a near word is by supplement also referred to another more remote word.

Eph. 5:21-22 *and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. 22 Wives, [be subject] to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

Euphemism: The substitution of a pleasant expression for an offensive or unpleasant one.

John 11:11 *"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. . ."*

Brachylogy: Expressing something in most concise manner - brevity (cf to Mt. 10:1-42)

Compare Luke 9:1-5 with Matthew 10:1-42

Litotes: affirmative expressed by the negative of the contrary.

Psalm 28:1 - *"To Thee, O Lord, I call; My rock, do not be deaf to me. . ."*

Meiosis: Rhetorical understatement in order to give emphasis.

2 Kings 10:18 *"Ahab served Baal a little; Jehu will serve him much"*

Oxymoron: Presence of antithesis makes apparent contradiction between a noun and its modifier.

Matthew 6:23 *If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

Personification: The inanimate takes on human or animal characteristics.

Anthropomorphism - human characteristics

Proverbs 1:20f *Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square*

Biomorphism - animal or plant characteristics

Psalm 36:7 - *How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings*

Paronomasia: Pun - play on words for effect.

Matthew 16:18 *"And I also say to you that you are Peter (petros), and upon this rock (petra) I will build My church"*

Metonymy: Exchange of one noun for another by their close association

Proverbs 4:14 *Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not proceed in the way of evil men.*

Homeocentrism/geocentrism: The view from man's / earth's perspective

Psalm 19:4-6 *Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them*

Exercises - Figures of Speech

In each of the following passages a figure of speech is used. Tell what kind of figure of speech is being used and what it is referring to?

Hosea 13:3 _____

Proverbs 12:4 _____

Acts 23:3 _____

Psalms 31:10 _____

1 Cor. 11:30 _____

Ruth 2:12 _____

1 Cor. 12:17 _____

1 Cor. 12:15 _____

Jesus uses figures of speech to describe Himself in the following passages. What does each mean?

John 6:48-51 _____

John 8:12 _____

John 10:14-18 _____

John 15:1-5 _____
