



Language Devices Help sheet

Alliteration

Definition: The repetition of the same sound at the beginning of words.

Example: "Big bad bear"

Effect: Draws attention to key words or ideas, creates rhythm or mood.

Metaphor

Definition: A direct comparison saying one thing is another.

Example: "Time is a thief."

Effect: Creates vivid imagery and helps the reader see concepts in a new way.

Simile

Definition: A comparison using like or as.

Example: "Her smile was as bright as the sun."

Effect: Helps the reader picture the description clearly, makes writing more engaging.

Personification

Definition: Giving human qualities to non-human things.

Example: "The wind whispered through the trees."

Effect: Brings objects or scenes to life, creates mood or emotion.

Hyperbole

Definition: Extreme exaggeration for effect.

Example: "I've told you a million times!"

Effect: Emphasises a point, adds humour or drama.

Onomatopoeia

Definition: A word that imitates a sound.

Example: "Bang!" "Buzz!"

Effect: Makes writing more vivid and immersive for the reader.

Repetition

Definition: Repeating words or phrases for emphasis.

Example: "Alone, alone, all alone."

Effect: Highlights important ideas or emotions.

Emotive Language

Definition: Words that evoke an emotional response.

Example: "A heartbreaking tragedy"

Effect: Engages the reader's feelings and persuades them emotionally.

Rhetorical Question

Definition: A question asked for effect, not expecting an answer.

Example: "Do you want to fail?"

Effect: Engages the reader, makes them think.

Rule of Three

Definition: Three parallel words or phrases used together.

Example: "Strong, smart, and successful."

Effect: Makes ideas memorable and persuasive.

Oxymoron

Definition: Two contradictory terms combined.

Example: "Deafening silence."

Effect: Creates dramatic effect or highlights complexity.

Juxtaposition

Definition: Placing contrasting ideas close together.

Example: A rich mansion beside a rundown shack.

Effect: Highlights differences to create impact.

Enjambment

Definition: A line of poetry that runs over into the next without a pause.

Example: Example from a poem where the line continues.

Effect: Creates flow, pace, or tension.

Irony

Definition: Saying the opposite of what is meant.

Example: "What a pleasant day!" during a storm.

Effect: Adds humour or highlights contradictions.

Pathetic Fallacy

Definition: Giving human emotions to aspects of nature.

Example: "The angry storm lashed the town."

Effect: Reflects mood or emotion through the environment.

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