



0:00	Owl: Welcome to Figurative Language, an instructional video on reading comprehension
0.00	brought to you by the Excelsior College Online Writing Lab.
0:10	Sometimes authors use language to mean something other than its literal definition.
0:15	This type of language is called figurative language.
0:18	Figurative language is non-literal language that needs to be interpreted in order to
	understand what the author is trying to say.
0:25	Often, it is used to make comparisons or paint a picture in the reader's mind.
0:31	Figurative language is frequently used in literature.
0:34	For instance, in the classic novel <i>Moby-Dick</i> by Herman Melville, Melville introduces the
	infamous Captain Ahab by comparing him to a man who has been burnt at the stake.
0:45	"He looked like a man cut away from the stake, when the fire has overrunningly wasted all
	the limbs without consuming them, or taking away one particle from their compacted aged
	robustness"
0:59	Of course, Ahab wasn't literally burnt at the stake!
1:02	The point is that his grim and wasted appearance resembles someone who has.
1:07	Melville is trying to paint a picture of Ahab by making this comparison.
1:11	This technique is called simile.
1:13	A smilie is the comparison of two different things using "like" or "as."
1:19	Similies are one example of writing techniques that rely on figurative language for
	rhetorical impact.
1:25	We call these techniques figures of speech.
1:29	A figure of speech is a word or phrase that has a different meaning from its literal
	meaning.
1:34	To help you identify and interpret figurative language, we'll go over a dozen of the most
	common figures of speech in alphabetical order.
1:46	An allegory is a story or picture that has a hidden meaning, usually a political or moral one.
1:53	One example is Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" from The Republic.
1:57	In this text, Plato describes the process of becoming educated by comparing it to a
	situation in which a person escapes from a dark cave, which represents ignorance and
	illusion, and enters the light of day, which represents truth and reason.
2:13	A euphemism is a mild, indirect, or pleasant word or phrase used in place of words that are
	unpleasant or offensive.
2:22	An example is "Letting someone go" instead of "firing someone."
2:29	An hyperbole is an exaggerated statement or claim not intended to be taken literally.
2:35	An example of hyperbole is the statement, "I told you a million times not to leave your
	dirty socks on the floor!"
2:42	There are three types of irony.





 2:50 An example of verbal irony is the sarcastic statement. "That cake is as moist as paper!" 2:56 Sarcasm is a form of verbal irony. 3:00 Another type of irony is situational irony, which refers to the difference between what is expected to happen and what actually happens. 3:09 Situational irony occurs when a fire station burns down or a police station gets robbed. 3:15 Because fire stations are built to prevent fires, and police stations are built to prevent robberies, it's ironic to see a fire station burn down and a police station get robbed. 3:25 Finally, there is dramatic irony. 3:28 This occurs when the audience is more aware of what is happening than a character. 3:32 For example, in Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour," the characters believe the recently bereaved wife is crying tears of sorrow because of the loss of her husband. 3:42 However, the audience knows that she is crying tears of joy because she is now free from her husband. 3:49 A metaphor is a comparison between two things that are unrelated but share common characteristics. 3:55 For example, the statement "Your voice is music to my ears" implies that the person's voice is as pleasant as a song. 4:04 William Shakespeare's poem "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day" is an example of an extended metaphor in which the narrator compares his beloved to a summer's day. 4:14 Onomatopoeia refers to words that sound like the things they mean. 4:18 Examples include: bang, bark, clang, click, cuckoo, meow, moo, sizzle, tweet, and whiz. 4:38 An oxymoron is a phrase in which two words with opposite meanings appear side by side. 4:44 Examples include: act naturally, bib baby, deafening silence, jumbo shrimp, original copy, pretty ugly, and random order. 4:58 Personification is the attribution of human qualities to inanimate objects. 5:04 For example, the statement "the daffodits danced and fr	2:44	One type is verbal irony, which is the use of words to mean the opposite of their literal
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 6:01 Examples of simile are: "my love is like a red, red rose" and "she was busy as a bee." 6:09 Symbolism is the use of an object, person, place, or event to represent something other than its literal meaning. 6:17 Examples include: 6:18 A dove is a symbol for peace. 6:21 A rose is a symbol for love. 6:24 A torch is a symbol for knowledge. 6:27 A broken chain is a symbol for freedom from tyranny. 6:30 An example of symbolism in literature is Shakespeare's famous monologue in As You Lik It in which he compares the world to a stage where people are the actors and they play various roles throughout their lives. 6:43 "All the world's a stage, 6:45 And all the men and women merely players; 6:48 they have their exits and their entrances; 6:50 And one man in his time plays many parts," 6:54 — William Shakespeare, As You Like It 6:57 An understatement is a manner of presenting something as being smaller, less serious, or less important than it actually is. 7:06 For example, a person totals his car in a wreck and tells his friend it was "just a scratch." 7:13 Interpreting figurative language, such as figures of speech, might seem difficult at first. 7:18 But learning them and even practicing them yourself in conversation and writing will help you improve your reading comprehension by teaching you the difference between literal and figurative language. 7:29 To recap, literal language is language that literally means what it says, whereas figurative language, such as figures of speech, is language that is non-literal and needs to be interpreted. 7:41 By keeping this lesson in mind, as the saying goes, you'll be as wise as an owl! 7:48 Thanks for listening to this instructional video on Figurative Language! 	5:53	A simile is like a metaphor, only it uses the words "like" or "as" to make the comparison more direct.
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