

FIGURES OF SPEECH PART II

Onomatopoeia

- Onomatopoeia is a figure of speech where words resembling their actual sounds are used.
- Noises made by humans, animals, objects and natural phenomena constitute onomatopoeia.
- Like alliteration, onomatopoeia imparts a lyrical quality to the sentences or verses.

1. The audible purr of the kitten

The word ‘purr’ is onomatopoeic sound because it resembles the actual purring sound made by kittens.

2. The battleground resonated with the clanking of the swords.

The word ‘clanking’ resembles the sound of metal instruments clashing.

Alliteration

- Alliteration is the repetition of sound of words which are in a sequence or which are close to each other.
- It is the repetition of the sound of the consonants in the words.
- It makes the lines sound lyrical and rhythmic.
- Alliteration also renders a pleasing flow to the verses.

1. Susie suddenly sounds serious on the phone.

(The consonant sound ‘s’ is repeated for a pleasing effect.)

2. Pitter patter of petite feet

(The consonant sound ‘p’ is repeated for a pleasing effect.)

Assonance:

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in words that are close to each other in a sentence or phrase. The repetition created by assonance enhances your writing with rhythm, mood, and emphasis.

1. **His tender heir might bear his memory:** The "eh" sound in "tender," "heir," "bear," and "memory" is an example of assonance.
2. **Rowed the boat:** The repeated "ow" sound is an example of assonance.
3. **The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain:** The repeated "a" sound is an example of assonance.

Pun:

- ☐ Pun is a figure of speech where multiple meanings of the same word are exploited for poetic or comic effect.
- ☐ It imparts a 'double meaning' to the word in a witty manner.
- ☐ It exploits both the literal and the figurative meaning of the word.

1. A pessimist's blood type is always B-negative.

(It is a play on the word negative because pessimists always have a negative outlook towards life.)

2. An elephant's opinion carries a lot of weight. (The word 'weight' stands for the elephant's weight in the literal sense and for its figurative sense.)