

Deck the Halls with Figurative Language

A Holiday-themed Study of
Six Figures of Speech



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Featured Figures of Speech

Simile

A comparison of two unlike things using the words “like” or “as.”
Shoppers pushed and shoved like carnival bumper cars.

Metaphor

A comparison of two unlike things implying that something is a dissimilar object or thing. The words “like” or “as” are not used
Shoppers were carnival bumper cars, pushing and shoving against each other.

Personification

The figure of speech that gives human characteristics or actions to non-living things.
Delightful aromas steaming from a cup of hot chocolate invited me to have a sip.

Hyperbole

A exaggeration that cannot possibly be true.
There were at least a million presents stuffed under the tree.

Alliteration

The repetition of an initial consonant sound or of the same sound within several words.
Suzanne sat silently on the sofa as Mother decorated the fireplace mantel.

Onomatopoeia

Words that represent sounds.
A blaring Beep! Beep! Beep! from the driveway announced our grandparent’s arrival.



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Part One

All of the following sentences have holiday or winter connections, and each one is decorated with a figure of speech. You might find a *simile*, a *metaphor*, an example of *personification*, a *hyperbole*, *alliteration*, or a noisy *onomatopoeia*. Read each sentence and its companion question. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank to the left.



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- _____ 1. *Kari's eyes were laser beams scanning every doll displayed in the store.*
The figure of speech in this sentence is
(A) a simile,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) a hyperbole,
(D) an onomatopoeia.
- _____ 2. *The dropped package skidded like an Olympic bobsled across the icy sidewalk.*
What two things are being compared in this sentence's *simile*?
(A) the package and the sidewalk
(B) the Olympics and the icy sidewalk
(C) the movement of the dropped package and a bobsled
(D) the way the package was dropped and the Olympics
- _____ 3. *Shoppers hustled around the store, sometimes colliding like opponents in a roller derby.*
The *simile* in this sentence means that
(A) some of the shoppers were angry with each other,
(B) the store was almost out of merchandise,
(C) the shoppers were rushing around purposely banging into each other,
(D) the store was jam-packed with a large number of excited shoppers.
- _____ 4. *A loud beep! beep! beep! from the parking lot signaled a difference of opinion as to who spotted the empty space first.*
The figure of speech illustrated in the above sentence is
(A) a hyperbole,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) an onomatopoeia,
(D) alliteration.
- _____ 5. *A giant grinning gingerbread man suspended from the ceiling watched over the shoppers.*
In this example of *personification*, what object is given human characteristics?
(A) a gingerbread man
(B) a giant
(C) the ceiling
(D) a watch

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Part Two

Here's another group of December-related sentences decked out with figurative language. You'll find a *simile*, a *metaphor*, a *hyperbole*, *alliteration*, *personification*, an *onomatopoeia*, or a combination of these figures of speech in each one.

Read the sentence and its accompanying question. Then choose the correct answer from the four choices. Write its letter in the blank to the left.

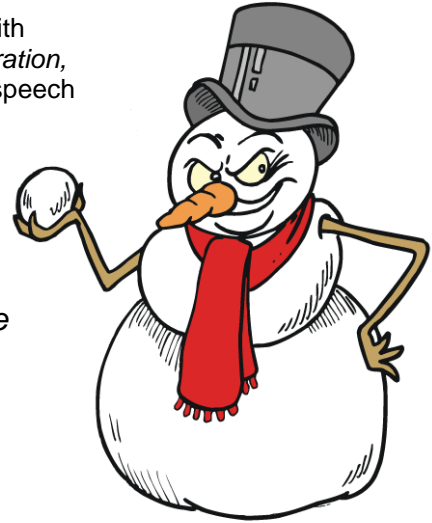


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- _____ 1. *A group of children constructed a gargantuan snowman who stood guard at the entrance to the neighborhood.*
The above sentence is decked out with
(A) a hyperbole,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) personification,
(D) alliteration.
- _____ 2.. *Early in the morning, the steady tick-tock, tic-tock of the hall clock called us from our beds to have a peek under the tree in the family room.*
What two figures of speech decorate this sentence?
(A) alliteration and a simile
(B) onomatopoeia and personification
(C) a simile and a hyperbole
(D) a metaphor and onomatopoeia
- _____ 3. *The early morning frost was an artist drawing wintry scenes on every window pane.*
What figure of speech is illustrated in the above sentence?
(A) a simile
(B) a metaphor
(C) a hyperbole
(D) alliteration
- _____ 4. *Snow fell and stuck on my coat _____ that quickly disappeared.*
Which of the following is a *simile* that will correctly complete the sentence?
(A) like tiny white pearls
(B) in little white dots
(C) in small clumps
(D) but became puddles
- _____ 5. *The large fir tree in our neighbor's front yard blinked a friendly welcome and lighted the way to the front door.*
The object being *personified* in this sentence is
(A) the neighbor's front yard,
(B) the front door,
(C) the large fir tree,
(D) the blinking lights.