

Rhetorical Devices

Stylistic Device	Definition	Example	Function
Alliteration	At least two consecutive words or words in one group beginning with the same letter	-Green grass -field or flood	-to make an aspect more memorable -creates a certain rhythm -stresses a specific aspect
Allusion	An indirect reference to a person, place or topic of significance	Plan ahead, it was not raining, when Noah built the ark	-to create mental images -enables to provide context in a short span -to convey a message
Anaphora	Repeating a sequence of words at the beginning of two sentences	Mad world! Mad kings! Mad compositions!	-to show analogies -dramatisation -put emphasis on sth.
Chiasmus	Two sentences possessing an reversal of their structure	Her life was full of children, and her children full of life.	-to lay emphasis on a certain aspect -to contrast two opposing statements
Climax	A three stepped increase of words or phrases	My brother, my captain, my king.	-dramatisation -to enhance the importance of sth.
Enumeration	An ordered list of words	A book, a shelf, a table	-to emphasise the high amount of sth -to briefly present facts or information -to give examples
Euphemism	a generally innocuous word used in place of one that may be found offensive or suggest something unpleasant	Departed instead of died	-sometimes connected with irony -helps to thematisise a social taboo or embarrassing topic
Hyperbole	An exaggeration of sth.	A million things	-point out the high amount of sth -dramatisation -humorous effect
Hypotactical syntax	Sentences are split in subordinated clauses and main clauses		-allows a better explanation of aspects, facilitates to connect topics
Irony	the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning	As sunny as a winter day in Alaska	-to make the reader think about a topic -to entertain the reader or to criticize
Metaphor	An abstract comparison via an image	Reality TV is a plague in our society	-to create analogies -to visualise the content
Paradox	Irresolvable contradiction of words	-Wise fool -All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others	-to make the reader reflect about a topic -to provoke via irony

Parallelism	Similar syntax in subsequent sentences	Talk is silver, silence is golden	-to create analogies -to compare/ connect two statements
Paratactical syntax	A sequence of main clauses is used		-briefly present information/facts -to equip sentences with a specific conciseness
Parenthesis	An insertion into a sentence, often in brackets	Did you leave your bag (red, black handles) in the classroom?	-gives the opportunity to briefly clarify and add aspects
Personification	When you assign a person's quality to something that is not human	The thunder grumbled like an old man.	-adds vividness to expressions -brings inanimate things to life for better understanding -to generate an image in the reader's mind
Reference	-a quote, a study or a statistic	As the institute reported, the economy expanded last month	-shows that the author is well-informed - "proves" points the author wants to make -makes the aspects more believable
Repetition	When you often repeat the same word or phrase	Oh, woeful, oh woeful, woeful, woeful day!	-to make statements appear familiar -clarifies a cohesion -to hammer sth. into the reader's mind
Rhetorical question	A question to the reader already suggesting the answer	-Isn't that great? -But how real is Reality TV?	-to involve the reader -to make the reader reflect on sth -to influence the reader
Simile	A comparison between two things connected with „like“ or „as“	as busy as a bee	-to create an image in the reader's mind -to compare two aspects