

Figurative language

Device	What it is	Example
Simile	A comparison using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>	The children were as busy as bees
Metaphor	A comparison without <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>	My heartbeat was a pounding drum
Analogy	Explains the unfamiliar by comparing it with the familiar	Organizing toddlers is like herding cats
Personification	Human qualities given to non-human things	The thunder grumbled all night
Alliteration	The same sound at the start of nearby words	"a dull, dark, and soundless day" (Poe)
Onomatopoeia	A word that sounds like what it names	<i>buzz, hiss, sizzle</i>
Allusion	A brief reference to something outside the text	an <i>Edenic</i> garden; the strength of Hercules
Idiom	A phrase whose meaning isn't in its literal words	spilled the beans; hit the sack
Proverb	A short traditional saying of advice or truth — an adage, maxim or saw	The early bird gets the worm
Allegory	A story with a hidden moral, political or spiritual meaning	fables; <i>Animal Farm</i> ; <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ; <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>
Irony	A contrast between expectation and reality — or between what is said and what is meant	The fire station burned down

Three kinds of irony

- ✓ **Dramatic:** the audience knows more than the characters — Iago announces his plan before Othello is fooled
- ✓ **Situational:** the outcome is the opposite of what was expected — Oz's travelers already had what they sought
- ✓ **Verbal:** saying the opposite of what is meant — "I had a great day," after a car crash

Word choice and point of view

- ✓ **Denotation:** a word's literal meaning. **Connotation:** its associations — *sunshine* suggests warmth and happiness; neutral *consequence* now suggests punishment
- ✓ **First person:** *I, me, my, mine* — a character tells the story
- ✓ **Second person:** *you, your* — the narrator addresses the reader
- ✓ **Third person:** *he, she, it, one, they*. **Limited:** one character's view. **Omniscient:** knows every character's thoughts

Paired passages

- ✓ Two passages on one topic, from different angles — assume they don't fully agree
- ✓ Usually they **differ**, in part or entirely; sometimes they are **general and specific**: A introduces a topic and B zooms in
- ✓ Read A, find its main idea, answer the questions about A alone; then do the same for B
- ✓ Then name the relationship between the two main ideas, predict, and choose

Reading a graphic

- ✓ Read the **title**, what each **axis** measures, the overall **shape**, and any **outliers**
- ✓ No background knowledge needed: track whether the numbers rise, fall or hold
- ✓ Wrong answers switch numbers for percentages, or mix up names and dates
- ✓ A graph of **percent change** says nothing about totals; a win rate needs the number of games played
- ✓ Some questions need only the graphic or the passage; others need **both** together
- ✓ Check every part of a choice against the graphic and the passage

Kinds of graphic

- ✓ **Line graph:** change over time. With two lines: where do they cross, converge or sit farthest apart, and does one change faster?
- ✓ **Area graph:** a line graph shaded below or between the lines, to compare variables over the same period
- ✓ **Scatterplot:** individual points on two axes; a pattern rising to the right means the two increase together
- ✓ **Bubble graph:** a scatterplot whose bubble size or color adds more variables
- ✓ **Bar graph:** bars of different heights compare categories, often several groupings at once
- ✓ **Pie chart:** each slice is a portion of one whole