



(a language technique)

Introduction

The purpose of this PowerPoint is to introduce the use of hyperbole as a language technique.

By the end of this PowerPoint you will have the knowledge and understanding of how to identify the technique within a range of texts.

When completing any form of writing activity for functional skills, try to apply the technique you've learned.

Learning outcomes

- To define the term 'hyperbole'
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the language technique

Definition

Use something of reference to define the term 'hyperbole'.

Did you know?

*Hyperbole derived from the Greek word meaning 'excess or exaggeration'. It is a figure of speech, which involves an **exaggeration** of ideas for the sake of **emphasis**.*

Hyperbole can add excitement and fun to a piece of writing, in the form of humour, an interesting character, or as a way of gaining the reader's attention.

Here is an example of hyperbole

“I will die if she asks me to dance.”

I'm sure that you wouldn't actually die however, you may be rather embarrassed if she was to ask you to dance.

Explain the examples below in your own words.

“I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.”

“He is older than the hills.”

Further examples

“They ran like greased lightning.”

The sentence is suggesting that they ran **very quickly** (however, would never be quite as fast as lightning).

“Your suitcase weighs a ton.”

The suitcase is perhaps very heavy and weighs in the region of the 23kg (the baggage allowance of British Airways for example).



A film example - Annie Hall

“Honey, there’s a spider in your bathroom the size of a Buick.”

If you don’t actually know what a Buick is, use something of reference to find out.

So, how big is a Buick?

Do you really believe a spider could be that big?

Activity:

Fill the gaps below with a suitable word(s).

“These shoes are ”



“I’ve seen this film at least a times.”

“I could listen to that song on repeat

Poetry – W.H. Auden

Extract the hyperbole from the text below. Discuss with a partner or your tutor.

‘As I Walked Out One Evening’

*‘I’ll love you, dear, I’ll love you
Till China and Africa meet,
And the river jumps over the mountain
And the salmon sing in the street,*



To read the complete poet, click on the link below:

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/i-walked-out-one-evening>

In the news - Brexit

BCC chief quits, accuses Cameron of EU exit ‘hyperbole’

“If the government keeps peddling the line that it will be a disaster if we leave, which it actually won’t be, they are going to put the country in a position where it will be damaged if we do.”

John Longworth

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/eureferendum/12185448/BCC-head-quits-in-Brexit-row.html>

Songs with hyperbole

Bruno Mars, Grenade

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkuoRGig4Cs

Taylor Swift, You Belong With Me

*And you've got a smile
That can light up this whole town.
I haven't seen it in awhile
Since she brought you down.*

Vanessa Carlton, A Thousand Miles

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwkej79U3ek

Can you complete the sentences below? (answers)

“These shoes are **killing me.**”

“I’ve seen this film at least **a billion** times.” (or similar type of word)

“I could listen to that song on repeat **forever.**”

Exam practice

Refer to the City and Guilds Level 2 practice test paper **Noisy Office**

Question 2

*Identify **two** language techniques that make the article more effective and provide an example of each from the text.*

Exam practice answers

Paragraph 3

churn out documents all day

