

Metaphors



Introduction

The purpose of this PowerPoint is to introduce the use of metaphor 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 'metaphor'
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the language technique

What is a metaphor?

Dictionary definition

‘A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable’.

For example, **‘Your room is a pigsty.’**

(Meaning: your room is so dirty and smelly that it is like a pigsty.)



How will I know if something is a metaphor or not?

Metaphor

No	Yes
Noun is adjective	Noun is noun
“His skin is leathery.”	“His skin is leather.”
Uses a descriptive word (adjective) i.e. leathery skin	Compares two different things i.e. comparing his skin to leather

Example

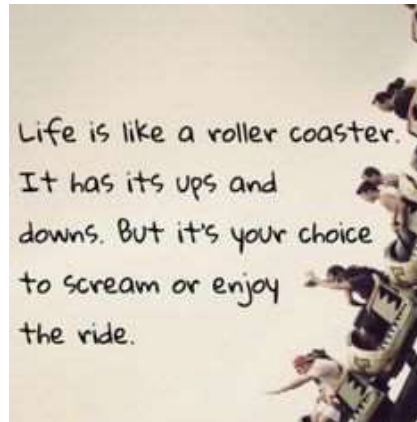
'He is a walking dictionary.'

The man is clearly intelligent. He knows many words.

The man is
being
compared to a
dictionary.



Further examples



The homework was a
breeze.

A blue rounded rectangular box containing the text "The homework was a breeze."

Activity

Explore the following examples. What do they imply?

“My brother is a pain in the neck.”

Ben’s temper was a volcano, ready to explode.

The teenager’s stomach was a bottomless pit.

It's raining cats and dogs



Activity
Explore where the phrase
originally came from.

But, what does the phrase
mean?

Metaphors in literature

Metaphors are comparison between two things **without** using 'like' or 'as'.

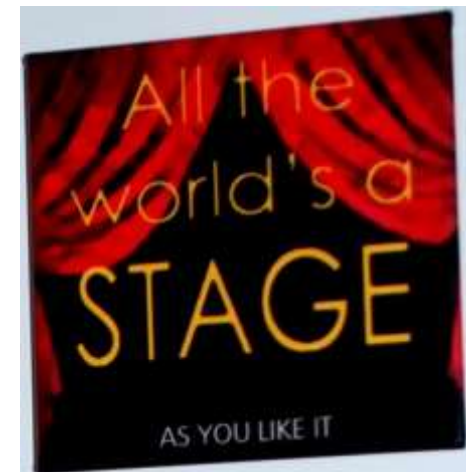
All the world's a stage.

(As You Like It, William Shakespeare)

And all the men and women merely players:

They have their exits and their entrances;

This quote is a metaphor because the world is not literally a stage. By figuratively asserting that the world is a stage, Shakespeare uses the points of comparison between the world and a stage to convey how the world works and the lives of the people within it.



Metaphor or simile

‘The path wound its way through the hills **like** a snake.’ (simile)

‘The path **snaked** its way through the hills.’
(metaphor)



Simile

A figure of speech which involves a direct comparison between two unlike things, usually with the words '**like**' or '**as**'.

He crept into the room as quiet as a mouse.

She was slow like a snail.

Metaphors in songs

Katy Perry

“Cause baby **you're a firework**
Come on, show 'em what you're worth
Make 'em go “oh, oh, oh!”
As you shoot across the sky-y-y
Baby, you're a firework
Come on, let your colors burst
Make 'em go “oh, oh, oh!”
You're gonna leave 'em going “oh, oh, oh?”



The brightness and potential that is locked within each of us is effectively compared to a firework exploding out of its casing. **BURSTING** free of all restrictions and anything that prevents you from reaching your full potential.

Everyone is capable of doing something spectacular.

Exam practice

Refer to L2 City & Guilds Reading practice paper,
Noisy Office

Question 2

Identify two language techniques that make the article more effective and provide an example of each from the text. (4 marks)

Exam practice answers

Noisy Office

Question 2

Identify two language techniques that make the article more effective and provide an example of each from the text. **(4 marks)**

Metaphor – vote with your feet

Rule of three – Ring, Bang, Clatter

Rhetorical question – Is it just you or is it others as well?

Onomatopoeia – Ring, Bang, Clatter

Further exam practice

Refer to L2 City & Guilds Reading practice paper,
Mobile Phones

Question 3

Identify two techniques used by the author to put pressure on the new employee. Support your answers with quotes from the text.

(4 marks)

Further exam practice answers

Question 3

Identify two techniques used by the author to put pressure on the new employee. Support your answers with quotes from the text.

(4 marks)

Metaphor – strong foundations (para. 2)

Rhetorical question – Can you master that?

Imperative – work hard, brush up