

English **Conversation** **Club**

Meets
9:30-11am
on Tuesdays
here!

sbc

***METAPHORS,
SYNECDOCHES
and
METONYMIES
!***

Metaphors, Synecdoches & Metonymies

A Metaphor ... pronounced  met-uh-for

is a 'word picture' where something (or someone) is described as something it is not, in order to emphasize some shared characteristic.

e.g. "Eunice is an angel".

e.g. "A skyscraper".

e.g. "That college is a sausage machine – students are human when they enter, but robots when they leave".



Synecdoches & Metonymies are special metaphors.

Synechdoche & Metonymy

Synechdoche ... pronounced  sin-eck-duh-key

is a 'word picture' where a part of something is used to refer to its whole (or the whole to refer to a part).

Metonymy ... pronounced  meh-ton-oh-mee

is a 'word picture' in which something or someone is replaced by a related object (or idea).

Examples of Synecdoches

“She wears **heels**, even when she goes shopping”.

high-heeled shoes

“I did a **headcount** – no-one was missing”

counted the people

“Which is Sam?” “She’s the **red-head** over there”

woman with red hair

Examples of Metonymies

“This box is heavy. Can you give me **a hand**, please”.

help

“If 50% vote ‘yes’ and 50% vote ‘no’, the **chair** decides”.

chairman or chairwoman

“The **pen** is mightier than the **sword**”.

fighting with words, fighting physically

Spot the Metonymies, Synecdoches & Metaphors

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 'Friends, Romans, countrymen – lend me your ears .' | M |
| [Shakespeare, from the play 'Julius Caesar'] | |
| 2. "How did you travel?" "I came by air ". | S |
| 3. Before you can become a British citizen, you have to swear your allegiance to the crown . | M |
| 4. Can I pay by plastic ? | M |
| 5. Derby lost the game in the first 10 minutes. | S |
| 6. Give us today our daily bread . | S |
| 7. I love Chardonnay. It's £5 a glass . | M |

Spot the Metonymies, Synecdoches & Metaphors

- | | |
|---|---|
| 8. I need the money. I've got 5 mouths to feed at home. | S |
| 9. I paid top price for a fast delivery, but it was broken when it arrived. It's a cruel world ! | S |
| 10. I wish I had a Picasso to put on the wall. | M |
| 11. I've filled the car with petrol. | S |
| 12. John got the pizza. Within 10 minutes they'd eaten all 3 boxes . | M |
| 13. Most of the successful people in Hollywood are failures as human beings. | S |

Spot the Metonymies, Synecdoches & Metaphors


- | | |
|---|----------|
| 14. My boss at work is a monster . | Metaphor |
| 15. She really puts her heart into her homework. | S |
| 16. She's certainly got a tongue on her – she doesn't seem to need to breathe between words! | M |
| 17. Susan is the brains of the company. | Metaphor |
| 18. The competition between newspapers is so strong that there will never be a free press . | M |
| 19. The court 's decision is 'guilty as charged'. | M |
| 20. The dish of the day is honey-glazed duck. | M |

Spot the Metonymies, Synecdoches & Metaphors

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 21. The Scottish government voted for reforming gender recognition, but the law was blocked by Westminster . | M |
| 22. This carpet needs a hoover . | S |
| 23. Today, the White House announced the death of Willow, its green-eyed tabby cat. | M |
| 24. We operate cradle to grave recycling. | M,M |

METAPHORS and SIMILES

Metaphors

A Metaphor ... pronounced  *met-uh-for* is a 'word picture' where something (or someone) is described as something it is not, in order to emphasize some shared characteristic.

Examples of Metaphors

“This exam is a tough nut”

“Eunice is an angel”

“A skyscraper”.

“That college is a sausage machine – students are human when they enter, but robots when they leave”.

“Don’t vote for him ... he’s a monster”

Similes

Simile ... pronounced  *sim-i-lee*

is a ‘word picture’ where something (or someone) is compared to something that it (or he or her) is not ...

... ALWAYS using a comparative word (or words):

“like”, “as”, “so”, “than”, “similar to”,

“in the same way that” ...

Examples of Similes

“My love is like a red, red rose”.

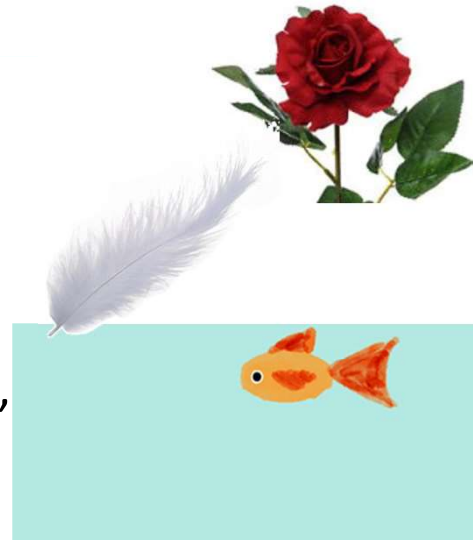
“She’s as light as a feather”.

“He can swim like a fish”

“Sharks are hungry and so am I”

“It was whiter than snow”

“In the same way that the sun comes out after a shower of rain, her smile soon returned”.




7 Metaphors & Similes

1. At home **he's a mouse**, but put him on the soccer pitch and **he's a lion**. M
2. **He is a river** of new ideas. M
3. Julie doesn't eat enough; she's **as thin as a rake**. S
4. **Ross Bofinger is the Keir Starmer** of Stapleford. M
5. **Sharon is a night owl**. M
6. She **sleeps like a baby**. S
7. You know how water keeps pouring from a fountain? **So** John never stops talking. S

HYPERBOLES and LITOTES

Hyperboles

A Hyperbole ... pronounced  *hi-per-bo-lee*
is emphasizing something by using an **over-**
statement...

Examples of Hyperboles

“I died of embarrassment.”

“Eunice is older than the dinosaurs.”

“I’m dying of starvation
... when’s dinner?”

“The film went on for ever.”

“It’s so hot you could
fry an egg on the path.”

Litotes

Litotes ... pronounced  *lie-tot-ees*

(singular and plural are the same)

is emphasizing something by using an **under-**statement...

Often, litotes use a negative statement to imply the positive ... sometimes ironically

Examples of Litotes

“That’s not bad”.

“Wow! That’s a small car”.

“Only 5 students passed the test,
but it really wasn’t very difficult”.

“Ross isn’t as young as he was”.


“I’ve learnt a little English”.

Hyperboles & Litotes - your turn!

Now prepare some hyperboles and litotes of your own, using the subjects listed on the worksheet.

Euphemisms

Euphemisms

A Euphemism ... pronounced  you-fir-miz-m
is when a mild or indirect word or phrase is
used to name something unpleasant or
disliked.

Examples of Euphemisms

“He is big-boned.”	“He is fat.”
“She passed away.”	“She died.”
“He’s between jobs.”	“He’s unemployed.”
“They sell pre-owned clothes.”	“They sell used clothing.”
“She’s financially challenged.”	“She hasn’t got any money.”
Developing country	Very poor country
Surgical strike	Brutal, localized attack

When to use euphemisms

*With **people you don’t know very well**, it’s usually considered polite to use euphemisms.*

*Some euphemisms must be used **to avoid offence**:
e.g. a person ‘with special needs’. Not ‘retarded’
e.g. a ‘person of colour’. Not a ‘negro’.*

Problems with euphemisms

They often try to hide the truth

They can be direct lies:

'enforced no-fly zone' = bombing of airfields

'military progress' = continuing to fight

'I'm 5 minutes away' = I'll be rather late

Symbolisms

Symbolisms

Symbolism ... pronounced  [Simm-boll-iz-m](#)

is when an object or concept is used to replace another object or concept to which it is closely related.

Usually, we use a word which gives a picture.

Symbolisms

“When I saw his behaviour, I raised a **red flag**.”

Share prices are rising quickly – it’s a **bear** market.

The **doves** in parliament prevented a war.

He is open-**hearted**.

“Are you watching the **clock**?”

“When I saw his behaviour, I issued a warning.”

There is a lot of demand for shares, so prices are rising.

The peacemakers in parliament stopped the war.

He is generous.

“Are you noticing the time?”

Difference between Symbolism and Metaphor

Symbolism

Symbolism is when an image acts as a logical replacement word or phrase

“When I saw his behaviour, I raised a red flag.”

He is open-hearted.

Metaphor

The metaphor uses an unconnected word to make an illustration

“Susan is a rose among thorns in that family.”

He has a big heart.

onomatopoeia

onomatopoeia

... pronounced  *On-o-mat-a-pee-a*

When you speak an onomatopoeia the sound you make is similar to the sound being described.

e.g. He **snapped** his fingers.

She will answer the door if you **ring** the bell.

My dog always **barks** at the postman.

My bag is still open. I forgot to use the **zip**.

onomatopoeia - your turn!

What onomatopoeias have you heard ?

What onomatopoeias have you spoken ?

Now make a list of all those you can think of.

Here are some onomatopoeias

Frogs **croak**

Cuckoo (bird)

Cats **purr**

Lemonade **fizzes**

Owls **hoot**

Fashion **bling**

Doors may **rattle**

For athletes, the Olympics is **crunch**-time.

When he caught Covid, he couldn't stop **coughing**.

"**Clunk, click**, every trip" (slogan to encourage use of the seatbelt in cars).

I'm so tired. I'm **yawning** non-stop.

He can't swim. He only **splashes**.

Do you wear **flip-flops**?

He **gobbles** his food so quickly.

paradox

paradox

... pronounced  *Pa-ruh-docks*

A statement that appears to contradict itself, or which describes something unexpected.

e.g. Remove a grain of sand from a heap of sand and you still have a heap. Keep taking more grains. When is it no longer a heap?

“I am telling a lie”

The more open plan the office, the more secretly office workers behave

Here are some paradoxes

Professional comedians often have unhappy personal lives.

He lived alone but liked to talk to anyone he could.

“More haste, less speed”.

Some of the poorest people live in the richest suburbs.

The less she ate, the fatter she got.

The Bible says that there is 1 God in 3 persons.

Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?