

## Up-Stage Your Descriptive Writing

(UKS2)

Whenever you describe something by comparing it with something else, you are using **figurative language**.

**Personification:** describing non-human things as though they were human

<i>The wind howled</i>	<i>The breeze whispered my name</i>	<i>The rain danced and ran</i>
<i>The waves roared</i>	<i>The trees waved</i>	<i>The sun smiled on me</i>
<i>Tiredness crept up on me</i>	<i>The truth jumped out at me</i>	<i>The signal winked at me</i>
<i>The traffic crawled along</i>	<i>The stairs groaned</i>	<i>Time crept by</i>

**Alliteration:** when two or more words are close together and begin with the same letter

<i>down in the dumps</i>	<i>as fit as a fiddle</i>	<i>turn the tables</i>
<i>brown bread</i>	<i>baked beans</i>	<i>custard creams</i>
<i>A mysterious moonlit night</i>	<i>A dark, dull dreary day</i>	<i>A wet and windy Wednesday</i>
<i>A warm woolly jumper</i>	<i>Cool, crisp cotton sheets</i>	<i>Soft, silent snow</i>

**Simile:** describing something by comparing it to something else using 'as' or 'like'

<i>as wicked as a witch</i>	<i>as good as gold</i>	<i>as pretty as a picture</i>
<i>as fat as a pig</i>	<i>as skinny as a rake</i>	<i>as big as a bus</i>
<i>working like a dog</i>	<i>singing like a bird</i>	<i>crying like a baby</i>
<i>like a cat on a hot tin roof</i>	<i>like a bull in a china shop</i>	<i>like peas in pod</i>

**Metaphor:** describing something as if it were something else without using 'as' or 'like'

<i>It's raining cats and dogs</i>	<i>The storm was a savage beast</i>	<i>The snow was a white blanket</i>
<i>His voice is velvet</i>	<i>She's a fish when she swims</i>	<i>He is a lion in battle</i>
<i>He is a tower of strength</i>	<i>She is green with envy</i>	<i>He is a goal machine</i>
<i>Her feet were blocks of ice</i>	<i>He has a heart of gold</i>	<i>He is a wet blanket</i>

**Hyperbole:** extreme exaggeration to make a point, for emphasis or for comic effect

<i>I've told you a million times</i>	<i>If I don't get that hat I'll die</i>	<i>I'll kill you if you spill that milk</i>
<i>I could eat a horse</i>	<i>He was a giant of a man</i>	<i>He's older than the hills</i>
<i>I was frozen to the core</i>	<i>I was drowned in the rain</i>	<i>My mouth is on fire</i>
<i>These shoes are killing me</i>	<i>The best film ever made</i>	<i>She never stops talking</i>

**Onomatopoeia:** a word that tries to sound like the thing it describes

<i>quack</i>	<i>cluck</i>	<i>moo</i>	<i>bark</i>	<i>meow</i>
<i>pop</i>	<i>fizz</i>	<i>plop</i>	<i>splash</i>	<i>drip</i>
<i>bang</i>	<i>crash</i>	<i>splat</i>	<i>thud</i>	<i>smash</i>
<i>buzz</i>	<i>zip</i>	<i>gargle</i>	<i>slurp</i>	<i>burp</i>

**Idioms:** expressions with meanings that are only known through common use.

<i>He's kicked the bucket</i> (died)	<i>He has a chip on his shoulder</i> (bares a grudge)	<i>It's a piece of cake</i> (easy)
<i>When pigs fly</i> (impossible)	<i>Let the cat out of the bag</i> (reveal a secret)	<i>I can smell a rat</i> (sense betrayal)
<i>Turn a blind eye</i> (pretend not to see wrongdoing)	<i>Turn a deaf ear</i> (pretend not to hear wrongdoing)	<i>Bite your tongue</i> (stay silent, stop yourself talking)