

Rhetorical Devices in Writing

<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples/examples-of-rhetorical-devices.html>

Here are examples of rhetorical devices with a definition and an example:

- Alliteration - the recurrence of initial consonant sounds - rubber baby buggy bumpers
- Allusion - a reference to an event, literary work or person - I can't do that because I am not Superman.
- Amplification - repeats a word or expression for emphasis - Love, real love, takes time.
- Analogy - compares two different things that have some similar characteristics - He is flaky as a snowstorm.
- Anaphora - repeats a word or phrase in successive phrases - "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh?" (Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare)
- Antanagoge - places a criticism and compliment together to lessen the impact - The car is not pretty but it runs great.
- Antimetabole - repeats words or phrases in reverse order - "ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country." (J F Kennedy)
- Antiphrasis - uses a word with an opposite meaning - The Chihuahua was named Goliath.
- Antithesis - makes a connection between two things - "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." (Neil Armstrong)
- Appositive - places a noun or phrase next to another noun for descriptive purposes - Mary, queen of the land, hosted the ball.
- Enumeratio - makes a point with details - Renovation included a spa, tennis court, pool and lounge.
- Epanalepsis - repeats something from the beginning of a sentence at the end - My ears heard what you said but I couldn't believe my ears.
- Epithet - using an adjective or adjective phrase to describe - mesmerizing eyes
- Epizeuxis - repeats one word for emphasis - The amusement park was fun, fun, fun.
- Hyperbole - an exaggeration - I have done this a thousand times.
- Litotes - makes an understatement by denying the opposite of a word that may have been used - The terms of the contract are not disagreeable to me.
- Metanoia - corrects or qualifies a statement - You are the most beautiful woman in this town, nay the entire world.
- Metaphor - compares two things by stating one is the other - The eyes are the windows of the soul.
- Metonymy - a metaphor where something being compared is referred to by something closely associated with it - The knights are loyal to the crown.
- Onomatopoeia - words that imitate the sound they describe - plunk, whiz, pop
- Oxymoron - a two word paradox - near miss, seriously funny
- Parallelism - uses words or phrases with a similar structure - I went to the store, parked the car and bought a pizza.
- Simile - compares one object to another - He smokes like a chimney.
- Understatement - makes an idea less important than it really is - The hurricane disrupted traffic.