

# idiom

**an expression that means  
something different than what  
the words actually say**

I wish I could go to the movies, but  
I've got to hit the books.

# alliteration

repeating the same initial  
consonant sound in  
neighboring words

Cold caribou cry constantly  
in Canada.

# palindrome

a word or phrase that reads the same forwards and backwards

My mom drives her car like it's a racecar and will toot the horn to make people move.

# metaphor

**comparing two unlike things by  
saying that one is the other**

The homework was a breeze.

# onomatopoeia

**a word that resembles the  
sound it represents**

Our cats meow when they are  
hungry and want to be fed.

# oxymoron

**a short phrase that combines two normally contradictory terms**

"That building is a little bit big  
and pretty ugly."

*- James Thurber*

# pun

**using similar sounding words or phrases, usually in an attempt to be funny**

Pencils could be made with erasers at both ends, but what would be the point?

*- Kap'n Klystron*

# simile

**comparing two unlike things by  
using the words *like* or *as***

The clouds looked like cotton candy.



# personification

giving human qualities, feelings,  
action, or characteristics to  
inanimate (non-living) objects

The teddy bear sat slumped on the  
bed, looking sadly at its feet.

# hyberbole

using exaggeration for  
emphasis or effect

The books weighed a ton.

# imagery

using the senses of sight, touch, sound, smell and taste to create vivid pictures

**Sight:** “magnified apples appear and disappear...every fleck of russet showing clear”

**Smell:** “Essence of winter sleep in on the night, the scent of apples”

*“After Apple Picking” by Robert Frost*