

Figurative Language Search

Do you know your metaphors from your similes, or your personification from your idiom? Can you spot which figurative language is featured in each of these cards?

Cut up the four sheets of cards and mix them around. Read each one and look for examples of figurative language. Sort them into these seven types:

- Metaphor [when one thing is described as another, e.g. *The sun is **a giant orange** in the sky.*]
- Alliteration [when several words in a phrase or sentence start with the same sound, e.g. *Super Simon swims like a salmon.*]
- Simile [comparing one thing with another, using as/like, e.g. *My dog's fur is like **a big fluffy cotton wool ball.***]
- Personification [giving non-human things features/actions only humans could have, e.g. The haunted house **watched me** with its broken windows.]
- Onomatopoeia [words which sound like the thing they represent, e.g. **crash, bang, woof, snap**]
- Idiom [a common expression which means something different to its individual words, e.g. The best students **reach for the stars.**]
- Hyperbole [an extreme/impossible idea used to gain maximum effect, e.g. No you can't go to the toilet; you've been **twenty times this lesson** already!]

1. You've already
told me that story a
million times.

2. Peter Piper picked a
peck of pickled pepper.

3. Bethany could sleep
through an
earthquake.

4. My bag weighs a
tonne.

5. The spicy food
danced around my
taste buds.

6. The floorboards
moaned as I tiptoed
across the room.

7. The fabric cascaded
out of the cupboard in
a rainbow of colours.

8. As the fighter jet
went supersonic, a
deep boom was heard
across the sky.

9. Don't you feel well?
You're as white as a
sheet.

10. The champion's
tennis racket
whooshed as it sliced
through the air.

11. Good friends will
always stick up for
each other.

12. The model's
beautiful teeth were
pearls in his smile.

13. Those new Crispy
Crunch Cream
biscuit bars sound
delicious!

14. The pool was so
cold I was surprised
that there weren't any
penguins swimming
in it!

15. Wasps and flies
buzzed around our
picnic in the garden.

16. You are the
sunshine of my life.

17. Tell me this joke
then - I'm all ears.

18. I rode down the
Red River on a raft.

19. The electric car
hummed to itself at the
traffic lights.

20. Ten calculations!?
That will take days!

21. The bouncing baby
babbled as he drank
his bottle.

22. The steam train
hissed as it waited in
the station.

23. Tim, Sam and Ali
are great friends;
they're like the three
Musketeers.

24. The wind sighed
through the field of
wheat.

25. My brother and I have to share the new games console because it cost an arm and a leg.

26. Finally, my temper exploded.

27. It was his birthday and Dean felt as happy as a dog with two tails.

28. We gathered the green leaves in the garden.

29. Doves cooed softly in the trees as evening fell.

30. Mrs.White's maths test was a piece of cake.

31. Tyler's room is a tip.

32. We haven't got any plans for Saturday - we're just going to play it by the ear.

33. The reception children played in the sandpit like a litter of puppies.

34. Assembly usually drags on for hours.

35. I passed the times tables test by the skin of my teeth.

36. I smacked my head on the open door.

37. Scowling, Sara stormed off and slammed her bedroom door.

38. Trying to get you lot to agree is like plaiting fog.

39. Dad was almost as hairy as a gorilla.

40. The FA Cup is in the bag for my team.

41. The single chair sat miserably in the corner of the room.

42. The TV beckoned to me as I struggled through my homework.

43. Mum's got eyes in the back of her head.

44. Tom says he's stuck as regularly as clockwork.

45. Our new car is faster than the speed of light.

46. The magician snapped her fingers and my watch disappeared.

47. The movie star's dazzling diamonds were draped around her neck.

48. The ivy hugged the walls of the old building tightly.

Answer Key

Simile: 9, 23, 27, 33, 38, 39, 44

Metaphor: 7, 12, 16, 26, 31

Personification: 5, 6, 19, 24, 41, 42, 48

Alliteration: 2, 13, 18, 21, 28, 37, 47

Idiom: 11, 17, 25, 30, 32, 35, 40, 43

Hyperbole: 1, 3, 4, 14, 20, 34, 45

Onomatopoeia: 8, 10, 15, 22, 29, 36, 46