

## Rhetorical Devices in Writing

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.

Read more at

<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-rhetorical-devices.html#LeBU309iE2ucPWQ1.99>