

## Figurative Language – A Cheat Sheet

**Alliteration** - The repetition of the same initial letter, sound, or group of sounds in a series of words. Alliteration includes tongue twisters.  
*Example: She sells seashells by the seashore.*

**Cliché** - A cliché is an expression that has been used so often that it has become trite and sometimes boring.  
*Example: Many hands make light work.*

**Hyperbole** - An exaggeration that is so dramatic that no one would believe the statement is true. Tall tales are hyperboles.  
*Example: I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.*

**Idiom** - An idiom is an expression that has a meaning apart from the meanings of its individual words.  
*Example: It's raining cats and dogs.*

**Metaphor** - The metaphor states a fact or draws a verbal picture by the use of comparison. A simile would say you are like something; a metaphor is more positive - it says you are something.  
*Example: You are what you eat.*

**Onomatopoeia** - The use of a word to describe or imitate a natural sound or the sound made by an object or an action.  
*Example: snap crackle pop*

**Personification** - A figure of speech in which human characteristics are given to an animal or an object.  
*Example: My teddy bear gave me a hug.*

**Pun** - A play on words. Using a word or words that have more than one meaning.  
*Example: My dog not only has a fur coat, but also pants.*

**Simile** - A simile uses the words "like" or "as" to compare one object or idea with another to suggest they are alike.  
*Example: She is busy as a bee.*