***Figures of Speech***

**Figure of speech** means an example of saying something and meaning something else in order to bring about impressive effect. A **figure of speech** can be defined as “a way of using language in order to heighten its effect and make it stronger.” Similes, metaphors, symbols, hyperbole, personification, irony, alliteration, sarcasm, paradox, are different figures of speech.

1. **Simile:** this is a comparison between two persons, things or ideas which have one feature in common. The comparison is introduced by using such words as: as, as…as, so…as, as….if, and like.

**Example:** John is **like** a lion. She is **as** beautiful **as** a rose.

1. **Metaphor:** this is an indirect comparison between two persons, things and or ideas which have one feature in common. In a metaphor, we do not use words like “as” or “like.”

**Example:** Mary is a rose. Fadi is a fox.

1. **Personification:** this is a comparison between a non-living being or an animal and a person. Here, the thing or animal is treated like a person and is given human characteristics; give human qualities to non-human things.

**Example:** Justice is blind. The roses were smiling in the field.

1. **Sarcasm:** this figure of speech sometimes contains irony where the speaker intends to give insult in an indirect manner.

**Example:** The sergeant says to a soldier who is making many mistakes during the exercise: “What’s the matter, General? Would you like a nurse to hold your hand?”

1. **Paradox:** this is a statement which contains apparent contradiction, but is still true; it looks illogical but is quite logical and befitting if understood closely.

**Example:** The child is the father of man. Truth is honey, which is bitter. Wise fool. I am nobody.

1. **Alliteration:** it is a speech in which a consonant sound is repeated in group of words; a sequence of repeated initial sounds usually before stressed syllables.

**Example:** He claps the crag with crooked hands. The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew.

1. **Hyperbole:** is simply an exaggeration on the basis of some truthful analogy; extreme exaggeration to make a point.

**Example:** I ate so much, I think I am going to explode. I have reviewed my poem for a hundred times.

1. **Symbol:** is a figure of speech in which some thing (object, person, situation or action), means more than what it is.

**Example:** Black is a symbol that represents evil or death. A broken mirror may symbolize separation.

1. **Imagery:**  is the use of language to evoke a picture or a concrete sensation of a person, a place, a thing, or an experience; it can appeal to our senses of taste, smell, hearing and touch.

***Application***

***Identify the figure of speech in each of the following sentences below:***

1. I could sleep for years. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
2. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. ………………………………………………………………………………………
3. They are like two peas in pod. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………
4. The soldiers left the building holding white flags. …………………………………………………………………………………
5. The romance between that man and I was no Romeo and Juliet, but we will sacrifice for each other in any situation. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
6. European languages are very often described in terms of a family tree, with many languages descending from the ancestral language, Indo-European where languages are born and die like people. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..
7. The house was built by 4o hands. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
8. Vicky Vic viewed a very valuable vase. …………………………………………………………………………………………………
9. The popcorn popped. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
10. Shelly Sherman shivered in a sheer, short, shirt. …………………………………………………………………………………
11. I say love is a flower, and you are its only seed. ……………………………………………………………………………………
12. The tropical storm slept for two days. …………………………………………………………………………………………………
13. You are the sunshine of my life. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………
14. Bad things happen to good people. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………
15. This box weighs a tone. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
16. He was the cleverest general that ever lost a battle. ……………………………………………………………………………
17. The fog crept in on little cat feet. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………
18. She addressed the children like a sergeant major. ………………………………………………………………………………
19. Death be not proud. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
20. Your letter was buried under my papers. ……………………………………………………………………………………………
21. Her gaze was icy. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
22. My friend dances like King Kong. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………
23. Doing homework is like doing chores. …………………………………………………………………………………………………
24. Her hair was as dark as night. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
25. The stars winked at me. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
26. The test was a walk in the park. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………
27. Weird Wally Waits, Wishes and Whistles While Wanting Watermelons. ………………………………………………
28. The rain gently kissed my cheeks. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
29. The cookies begged me to eat them. …………………………………………………………………………………………………
30. Justice is blind and at times, deaf. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
31. Money is the only friend that I can count on. ………………………………………………………………………………………
32. The detective listened to her tales with a wooden face. ………………………………………………………………………
33. She was fairly certain that life was a fashion show. ………………………………………………………………………………
34. I dream of silent verses where the rhyme glides noiseless as an oar. ……………………………………………………
35. Though they knew it not, their baby’s cries were lovely as jeweled butterflies. ……………………………………
36. The cactus saluted any visitor brave enough to travel the scorched land. ……………………………………………
37. Jan ate the hotdog despite the arguments it posed to her digestive system. …………………………………………
38. The typical teenage boy’s room is a disaster area. ………………………………………………………………………………
39. What storms then shook the ocean of my sleep. …………………………………………………………………………………
40. He kissed her as though he were trying to win a sword fight. ………………………………………………………………
41. The paparazzi circled like vultures above a tottering camel. …………………………………………………………………
42. The world does not care to hear your sad stories. ………………………………………………………………………………
43. After freedom’s sweet kiss, she could never return to the doldrums of the factory. ………………………………
44. The children were roses grown in concrete gardens, beautiful and forlorn. …………………………………………
45. Kisses are the flowers of love in bloom. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
46. She was as distant as a remote tropical island, uncivilized, unspoiled. …………………………………………………
47. Our hearts, though stout and brave, still, like muffled drums, are beating funeral marches to the grave. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..
48. Peggy heard the last piece of cheesecake in the refrigerator calling her name. ……………………………………
49. The sorry engine wheezed its death cough. …………………………………………………………………………………………
50. His cotton candy words did not appeal to her taste. ……………………………………………………………………………
51. Kathy arrived at the grocery store with an army of children. …………………………………………………………………
52. He had hidden his wealth, heaped and hoarded and piled on high like sacks of wheat in a granary. ………
53. Pieces of silver and of gold/ into the tinkling strong box fell like pebbles dropped into a well. ………………
54. Drugs dragged him into this place and they wouldn’t let him leave alive. ……………………………………………
55. The buses can be impatient around here. ……………………………………………………………………………………………
56. Her eyes were fireflies. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..
57. He wanted to set sail on the ocean of love but he just wasted away in the desert. …………………………………
58. The cabin windows have grown blank as eyeballs of the dead. ………………………………………………………………
59. What passing bells for these who die as cattle? ……………………………………………………………………………………
60. These casinos are always hungry enough to eat your dinner. ………………………………………………………………
61. Each face was like the setting sun, as broad and red. ……………………………………………………………………………
62. Barefooted, ragged with neglected hair, she was a thin slip of a girl, like a new moon. …………………………
63. My geography teacher is older than the hills. ………………………………………………………………………………………
64. I could do this forever. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
65. Here are the rules; ignore all rules. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
66. You could have knocked me down with a feather. ………………………………………………………………………………
67. The Titanic was said to be unsinkable but sank on its first voyage. …………………………………………………………
68. I have a million things to do today. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
69. The thieves robbed the police station. …………………………………………………………………………………………………
70. I shall be as peaceful as the leafy trees. …………………………………………………………………………………………………
71. Mother Earth is forgiving. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
72. The entire span of human history is like a blink in an eye compared to the time required for most biological changes to become noticeable. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………….
73. In this wide desert where the pyramids are majestically standing, millions of years of civilization are contemplating us. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
74. Because the body parts often resemble the organs of lower, more primitive life forms, these spares are taken to be vestiges of earlier stages of human evolution. …………………………………………………………………………….
75. Fossil teeth play a key role in providing durable records of early humans. ……………………………………………
76. A sun winked at him between two dark clouds. ……………………………………………………………………………………
77. My heart is like a singing bird. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………
78. “They died on the field, but when you are in combat, you don’t imagine it could happen to you. The enemy is invisible, but this is like a war, and the only solution is to isolate- those who have to work must work with precautions, the rest must stay at home. ……………………………………………………………………
79. Those boys are like two peas in a pod. …………………………………………………………………………………………………
80. I felt like a cheetah when I ran the race. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
81. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog’s bath. ………………………………………………………………………
82. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it. ……………………………………………………………………………
83. The giant’s steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack. …………………………………………………………………………
84. The microwave timer told me it was time to eat my TV dinner. …………………………………………………………….
85. The rain kissed my cheeks as it fell. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
86. The snow whispered as it fell to the ground during the early hours. ………………………………………………………
87. The wing sang her mournful song through the falling leaves. ………………………………………………………………
88. The strawberries were yelling, “Eat me first!” ………………………………………………………………………………………
89. Tina Talbot talked to two, tall, talented tenors. …………………………………………………………………………………….
90. Yolanda Yvonne Yarger yodeled up yonder yesterday. …………………………………………………………………………
91. Milton Mallard mailed a mangled mango to Montana. ……………………………………………………………………….
92. Clever Clifford clumsily closed the closet clasps. …………………………………………………………………………………
93. The water was a million feet deep. …………………………………………………………………………………………………….
94. She was as slow as a sloth on a hot day. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
95. The children were nestled, all snug in their beds, while visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.

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