

What is Hyperbole?

Name _____ Bell _____

A **hyperbole** is a much exaggerated statement for a dramatic effect.

Friday night I went disco dancing, and when I woke up on Saturday my feet were killing me! Mom ordered me to clean my room – or else. All day long I worked my fingers to the bone getting things together so I'd be free to go out that evening. I was dying to see the new movie at the Towncenter Cinema. When I finished, however, I was so tired I couldn't move.

What do the underlined phrases really mean? Can feet kill? Is the desire to see a new movie a symptom of some strange and fatal disease?

1. "my feet were killing me" really means _____
2. "worked my fingers to the bone" really means _____
3. "was dying to see" really means _____
4. "so tired I couldn't move" really means _____

Obviously, the author has emphasized certain points by means of exaggeration. Hyperboles are attention-getters and can help a writer achieve a dramatic effect. Good writers use hyperboles sparingly because they can become clichés if overused and lose the dramatic effect.

Directions: Create some attention getting, original hyperboles in response to the following lines of dialogue.

1. Don't you think the TV is too loud?

The TV is so loud _____.

2. Are you really going to eat the entire hot fudge brownie sundae?

I'm so hungry _____.

3. Look at that incredible amount of snow piled up outside.

The snow is so deep that _____.

4. Do you really want to go to the movies? I mean, don't you have too much homework to do?

I have so much homework _____.

5. Look at that poor old dog. He can hardly walk.

That dog is so old _____.

6. Write a hyperbole that you can add into your narrative.

What is Personification?

Personification is a figure of speech in which an inanimate (lifeless) object or being is given human qualities or abilities.

Writers use personification as a powerful writing tool because it allows them to write about an object and describe it in a way that is probably familiar to the reader. They probably think to themselves, if this object were human, how would I describe its actions? Therefore, readers can imagine the human quality and associate that quality with the non-human topic.

Directions: Underline the idea, object, animal being personified and circle what they're doing that makes it an example of personification. The first is done for you as an example.

1. The sun danced across the sky on the hot summer day.
2. The big full moon guided me through the forest.
3. The mountain listened to the rumbles beneath its surface.
4. As the rain pounded to the ground, everyone ran for cover.
5. The old man sat at the edge of the sea as the waves crashed on the shore.
6. The old car groaned as it made its way down the long open road.
7. The wind whispered lonely sounds as it blew through the old creaky windows.
8. The leaves raced to the ground as the children ran across the playground.
9. The pencil moaned as the boy turned the handle on the pencil sharpener.
10. Write a hyperbole that you can add into your narrative: _____

What is Onomatopoeia?

Onomatopoeia is the use of words (such as *buzz* or *murmur*) that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to.

Good writers use onomatopoeia to add description into their writing because it allows a reader to *hear* the object they are trying to describe. This is effective because the reader is more likely to be able to picture the image if the reader can imagine the object in their head.

Directions: Find the onomatopoeia in the following sentences and underline it. The first has been done for you already as an example.

1. The old floor creaked as we walked slowly down the hall.
 2. The old engine chugged down the rickety track.
 3. The truck's brakes squeaked in the distance.
 4. Edwin's guitar strings twanged the sad melody of his song.
 5. The tennis ball whistled by my ear.
 6. The fire crackled as we sat nearby listening to Grandpa's story.
 7. The snake hissed at its prey to warn of an attack.
 8. Write an example of onomatopoeia that you can include in your own narrative.
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