IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

ONE SHOT MASTERCLASS ON FIGURES OF SPEECH

Do you know these 38?

Q1 "A fire station catches fire."
Which figure of speech is this?

Q2 "The Crown issued a statement."
Which figure of speech is this?

Q3 "We will learn. We will practise. We will succeed."
Which figure of speech is this?

Q4 "He met his Waterloo."
Which figure of speech is this?

Q5 "It is what it is."
Which figure of speech is this?



CGL SCORE 345+ | EPFO SCORE 180+ | PHASE X RANK 1

COMPLETE NOTES + MCQS PRACTICE

UPSC Civil Services | EPFO (APFC/EO/AO) | SSC CGL (Especially Mains) & CHSL | Banking Exams (IBPS, SBI, RBI) | CUET (UG Entrance) | Other Govt. Exams

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

FIGURE OF SPEECH
MEANING



Meaning

A figure of speech is a special use of words or expressions to make language more **effective**, **vivid**, **imaginative**, **emphatic**, or **memorable**.

Example

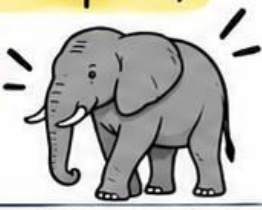
Ordinary (Literal)

He is very brave.



Figurative (Figure of Speech)

He is **as brave as an elephant.**



The second sentence uses a **comparison** to make bravery more vivid.

Why are Figures of Speech Used?

1. To make language **attractive** and **expressive.**
2. To create **emphasis** and **emotional impact.**
3. To communicate **abstract ideas** through **concrete images.**
4. To create **humour**, **irony**, or **surprise.**
5. To improve **rhythm** and **sound patterns.**
6. To help readers **imagine** or **remember** an idea.

Important

A figure of speech is **not necessarily** a **false statement.**

Its purpose is often to communicate an idea **imaginatively** rather than **literally.**

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

1. SIMILE

Small Words Bigger Impact



Memory Code: Comparison using **LIKE / AS**

Definition

A simile compares two different things using words such as **"like"** or **"as."**

Examples

- He is **as** strong as an elephant.
- Her eyes sparkled **like** diamonds.
- The child slept **like** a log.
- The news spread **like** wildfire.

In Simple Words

Jab kisi person, object ya quality ko kisi doosri cheez se **like** ya **as** ke through compare karte hain, toh **Simile** hota hai.

Identification Rule

Look for an explicit comparison using **like/as**, where two different things are compared.

Exam Trap

Every use of like is **not** a simile.

"She likes music" expresses preference, not comparison.

Remember

Simile = Similarity shown explicitly.

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

2. METAPHOR

Memory Code: Direct or implied comparison



Definition

A metaphor describes one thing as another to suggest a similarity, without an explicit comparison such as "like" or "as."

Examples

- Her voice is music to my ears.
- The world is a stage.
- He is the backbone of the team.
- The classroom was a zoo.






Explanation

Jab kisi ki quality ko directly kisi doosri cheez ke roop mein express kiya jaata hai, toh Metaphor hota hai. Voice literally music nahi hai; iska matlab hai ki voice bahut pleasant hai.

Identification Rule

Check whether one thing is directly described as another.

Exam Trap

- "He is like a lion" is a Simile (comparison using like).
- "He is a lion" is a Metaphor (direct comparison) when bravery is implied.

Remember

Metaphor = Direct or implied comparison.

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

3. ALLITERATION

Memory Code: Initial consonant sounds



Definition

Alliteration is the **repetition** of the **same or similar initial consonant sounds** in nearby words.

Examples

- **B**usy **b**ees **b**uzzed **b**eside the **b**lossoms.
- **W**ild **w**inds **w**hipped the **w**indows.
- **P**eter **p**icked **p**urple **p**lums.
- **S**ilent **s**nakes **s**lid **s**lowly.






Explanation

Jab paas-paas ke words ke beginning mein **same consonant sound repeat** hoti hai, toh **Alliteration** hota hai. Isse rhythm aur musical effect aata hai.

Identification Rule

Say the sentence aloud and listen to the **initial sounds.**

Exam Trap

Alliteration is **based on sound,** not merely spelling.



Remember

Alliteration = Beginning consonant sound repetition.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

4. HYPERBOLE

Memory Code: Deliberate exaggeration



Definition

Hyperbole is an **intentional exaggeration** used for **emphasis, humour, or emotional effect.**

Examples

- I have a **mountain** of homework.
- I waited for **ages.**
- This suitcase weighs **a ton.**
- I am so hungry I could **eat a horse.**







Explanation

Jab kisi baat ko **actual reality se bahut zyada badha-chadha kar express karte hain,** toh **Hyperbole** hota hai. Aim impact create karna hota hai.

Identification Rule

Ask whether the statement is **deliberately exaggerated** beyond what is normally possible or reasonable.

Exam Trap

Not every large number is hyperbole.

"The population is one million" may be literal.



Remember

Hyperbole = Overstatement for effect.

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

5. ASSONANCE

Memory Code: Repeated vowel sounds



Definition

Assonance is the **repetition of similar vowel sounds** in nearby words, often in stressed syllables.

Examples



- Go slow over the road.



- The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.



- The light of the fire is a sight.



- Hear the mellow wedding bells.

Explanation

Jab words mein **vowel ki sound repeat hoti hai**, toh **Assonance** hota hai. Spelling same hona zaroori nahi; sound important hai. Isse language mein rhythm aur musical effect aata hai.

Identification Rule



Read aloud and listen for **repeated vowel sounds** in nearby words.

Exam Trap

Assonance focuses on **vowel sounds**; alliteration commonly focuses on initial consonant sounds.



Remember

Assonance = Vowel sound repetition.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

6. PUN

Memory Code: Wordplay / double meaning



Definition

A pun uses a word's **multiple meanings** or **similar-sounding words** to create humour or a clever effect.

Examples



- The math teacher has too many **problems.**
- The calendar's days are **numbered.**
- A bicycle cannot stand on its own because it is **two-tired.**
- The baker **kneaded** the dough.





Explanation

Pun mein ek word ya expression ke **do meanings** ho sakte hain, ya **similar-sounding words** use hote hain. Isse humour ya cleverness create hoti hai.

Identification Rule

Look for a **double meaning,** **similar-sounding words,** or an **unexpected interpretation.**

Exam Trap

A word having several meanings is **not automatically** a pun; the sentence should exploit the meanings.



Remember

Pun = Play on words.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

7. LITOTES

Memory Code: Negation of the opposite



Definition

Litotes expresses an idea by negating its opposite, often creating understatement or restrained emphasis.

Examples

- The movie was not bad.
- He is not without talent.
- That was no small achievement.
- She is not unfamiliar with the rules.

Explanation

Jab positive idea ko directly kehne ke bajaye uske opposite ko negative form mein deny karte hain, toh Litotes hota hai. "Not bad" ka sense "good" ho sakta hai, context ke hisaab se.

Identification Rule

Look for a negative construction that indirectly communicates a positive idea or restrained evaluation.

Exam Trap

"He did not attend the meeting" is not necessarily litotes; it may simply report an absence.



Remember

Litotes = Understatement through negation.

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

8. REPETITION

Memory Code: Deliberate recurrence



Definition

Repetition is the **deliberate** reuse of a word, phrase, or **expression** to create **emphasis**, **rhythm**, or **emotional impact**.

Examples

- **Never**, **never** lose hope.
- **Work**, **work**, , and **work** until you succeed.
- **Alone**, **alone**, all alone.
- **Run**, **run**, **run**!









Explanation

Jab kisi **word ya phrase** ko jaan-boojhkar **repeat** kiya jaata hai taaki **emphasis**, **emotion** ya **rhythm** badhe, toh Repetition hota hai.

Identification Rule

Identify the **repeated word or phrase** and consider the **effect** it creates.

Exam Trap

Accidental or ordinary grammatical repetition **does not necessarily** function as a figure of speech.



Remember

Repetition = Same word or phrase again.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

9. PERSONIFICATION

Memory Code: Human qualities to non-human things



Definition

Personification gives **human qualities, feelings,** or **actions** to animals, objects, natural forces, or abstract ideas.

Examples



- The **leaves** waved goodbye to us.



- The **alarm clock** screamed at me.



- The **sun** smiled at the earth.



- **Opportunity** knocked at his door.

Explanation

Jab kisi **non-human object, natural force** ya **abstract idea** ko **insaan jaisi quality** ya **action** dete hain, toh Personification hota hai.

Identification Rule

Look for a **non-human subject** performing a **human-like action** or possessing a **human quality.**

Exam Trap

An animal performing a **natural animal action** is not necessarily personification.



Remember

Personification = Person-like qualities.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

10. PARADOX

Memory Code: Apparent contradiction with deeper truth



Definition

A paradox is a statement or idea that **appears self-contradictory** or **illogical** but may reveal a **deeper truth**.

Examples

- **The only constant** is change.
- **Less is more.**
- **I must be cruel to be kind.**
- The more I learn, the more I realise **how little I know.**





Explanation

Jab koi statement pehli nazar mein **contradictory** ya **illogical** lagta hai, lekin **deeper meaning** samajhne par meaningful ho sakta hai, toh Paradox hota hai.

Identification Rule

Look for an **apparent contradiction** at the level of the **whole statement** or idea.

Exam Trap

A statement that is simply wrong or meaningless is **not necessarily a paradox.**



Remember

Paradox = Contradictory-looking idea with a point.

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

11. OXYMORON

Memory Code: Contradictory words together



Definition

An oxymoron combines two words with **apparently contradictory** or **opposite meanings** to create a striking expression.

Examples

- Deafening silence.
- Open secret.
- Bittersweet memories.
- Seriously funny.
- Living dead.





Explanation

Jab do **opposite** ya **contradictory words** ko **ek saath** use karke special meaning create karte hain, toh Oxymoron hota hai.

Identification Rule

Look for a **compact expression** containing **contradictory terms.**

Exam Trap

Oxymoron generally works at the **word or phrase level**; paradox usually works at the **statement or idea level.**



Remember

Oxymoron = Opposites combined.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

12. CLIMAX

Memory Code: Rising order / ascending intensity



Definition

Climax arranges words, phrases, or ideas in increasing order of importance, intensity, or emotional force.

Examples

- He whispered, spoke, shouted, and screamed.
- She studied hard, passed the exam, and topped the country.
- He lost his savings, his home, and his hope.





Explanation

Jab ideas ko aise arrange karte hain ki har next idea previous se zyada intense ya important ho, toh Climax hota hai.

Identification Rule

Check whether the sequence builds towards a stronger, more significant, or more emotional point.

Exam Trap

Here, climax does not simply mean the end of a story; it refers to a rising sequence.



Remember

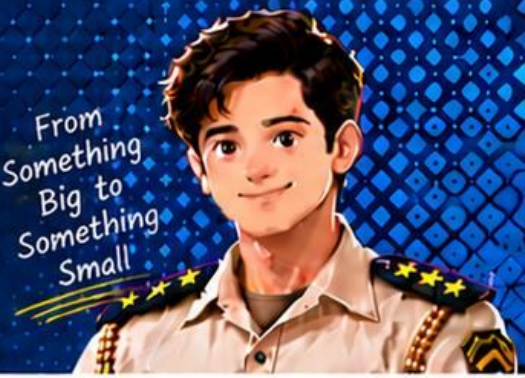
Climax = Gradual rise.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

13. ANTICLIMAX

Memory Code: Sudden drop / trivial ending



Definition

Anticlimax is a **sudden descent** from something **serious, elevated, or important** to **something trivial, ordinary, or ridiculous**, often producing humour or disappointment.

Examples

- He conquered nations, defeated armies, and **lost his keys.**
- She dreamed of fame, fortune, and **a free sandwich.**
- He saved the nation, rescued the king, and **forgot his lunch.**



Explanation

Jab sentence **serious ya grand idea se start** hota hai, lekin **end mein chhoti ya funny cheez aa jaati hai,** toh Anticlimax ho sakta hai.

Identification Rule

Look for a **deliberate drop in importance, intensity, or dignity.**

Exam Trap

The final event being smaller is **not enough by itself;** the contrast should create a **noticeable effect.**



Remember

Anticlimax = Sudden fall.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

14. IMAGERY

Memory Code: Language appealing to the senses



Definition

Imagery is descriptive language that creates sensory experiences or vivid mental pictures in the reader's mind.

Examples

- The golden sun lit the quiet valley.
- The thunder roared across the dark sky.
- The warm bread filled the kitchen with a rich aroma.
- The rough stone scraped against my palm.







Explanation

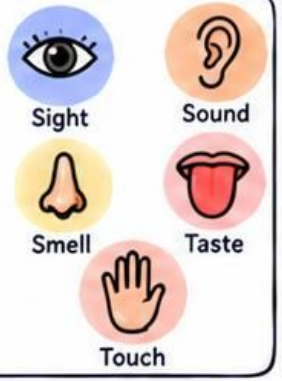
Jab words padhkar hum kisi cheez ko imagine kar paate hain — colour, sound, smell, taste ya touch — toh imagery create hoti hai.

Identification Rule

Ask which sensory experience the description evokes.

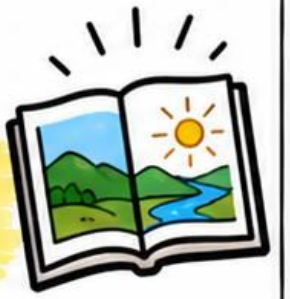
Exam Trap

Imagery is not limited to visual pictures; sound, smell, taste, and touch can also create imagery.



Remember

Imagery = Sensory experience through words.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

FIGURES OF SPEECH



15. Irony

Meaning: A contrast between what is expected, what is said, or what actually happens.

Example: A fire station catches fire.



Hinglish: Jahan situation ya intended meaning expected result ke opposite ho, wahan irony ho sakti hai.

Exam clue: Unexpected contrast; verbal irony often means saying the opposite of what is intended.

16. Onomatopoeia

Meaning: Words that imitate or suggest sounds.

Examples: Buzz, bang, hiss, tick-tock, splash.



Hinglish: Word khud kisi sound ki imitation karta hai.

Exam clue: Identify the sound-imitating word.

17 Antithesis

Meaning: Contrasting ideas expressed in a balanced or parallel structure.

Example: "Speech is silver, but silence is gold."



Hinglish: Opposite ideas ko balanced structure mein saamne rakhna.

Exam clue: Contrast between ideas, not necessarily two contradictory words.

18. Apostrophe

Meaning: Directly addressing an absent person, a dead person, an abstract idea or a non-human entity as if it could listen or respond.



Example: "O Death, where is thy sting?"

Hinglish: Kisi absent person ya abstract idea ko directly address karna.

Exam clue: Look for a direct address, often introduced by "O".

19. Euphemism

Meaning: A mild or indirect expression used instead of one considered harsh, unpleasant or embarrassing.

Example: "He passed away" instead of "He died."



Hinglish: Harsh baat ko comparatively soft language mein kehna.

Exam clue: A polite substitute for an unpleasant expression.

20. Metonymy

Meaning: Referring to something by using the name of something closely associated with it.

Example: "The Crown issued a statement." Here, "the Crown" represents the monarchy or royal authority.



Hinglish: Related ya associated cheez ka naam use karke actual institution ya concept ko refer karna.

Exam clue: Association, not a literal part-whole relationship.

21. Synecdoche

Meaning: Using a part to represent the whole, or sometimes the whole to represent a part.

Example: "All hands on deck." Here, "hands" means sailors or workers.



Hinglish: Part ke through whole ko represent karna, ya whole ke through part ko.

Exam clue: Part-whole relationship. Don't confuse it with Metonymy.

22. Anaphora

Meaning: Repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or sentences.

Example: "We will learn. We will practise. We will succeed."



Hinglish: Consecutive clauses ke beginning mein same phrase repeat hota hai.

Exam clue: Repetition at the beginning, not just repetition anywhere.

23. Rhetorical Question



Meaning: A question asked primarily for emphasis or effect rather than to obtain an answer.

Example: "Who doesn't want success?"

Hinglish: Question poochha jaata hai impact create karne ke liye, actual answer lene ke liye nahi.

Exam clue: The expected answer is obvious or the question makes a point.



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

FIGURES OF SPEECH



24 Epistrophe / Epiphora

Meaning:
Repetition at the end of successive clauses.

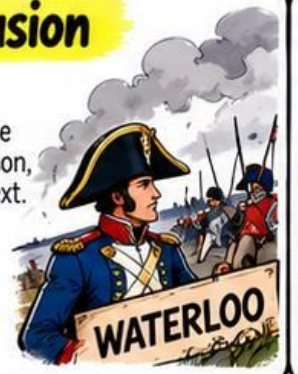
Example:
"We want justice, they demand justice, everyone seeks justice."



25 Allusion

Meaning:
Indirect reference to a famous person, event, story or text.

Example:
"He met his Waterloo."



26 Transferred Epithet

Meaning:
An adjective attached to something other than what it logically describes.

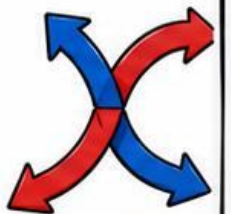
Example:
"A sleepless night."



27 Chiasmus

Meaning:
Reversal of grammatical structure or ideas.

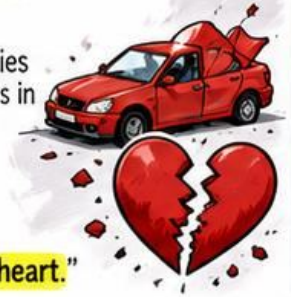
Example:
"Never let a fool kiss you or a kiss fool you."



28 Zeugma

Meaning:
One word applies to two other words in different senses.

Example:
"She broke his car and his heart."



29 Parallelism

Meaning:
Similar grammatical structures used in related expressions.

Example:
"Easy come, easy go."



30 Asyndeton

Meaning:
Deliberate omission of conjunctions in a series.

Example:
"I came, I saw, I conquered."



31 Polysyndeton

Meaning:
Repeated use of conjunctions for effect.

Example:
"We laughed and and sang and danced and celebrated."



32 Periphrasis

Meaning:
Using a descriptive phrase instead of a direct name.

Example:
"The king of beasts" for a lion.



33 Allegory

Meaning:
An extended narrative with a second, symbolic meaning.

Example: A story in which characters represent political or moral ideas.



34 Symbolism

Meaning:
Using an object, character or image to represent a broader idea.

Example: A dove representing peace.



35 Tautology

Meaning:
Repeating the same idea unnecessarily in different words.

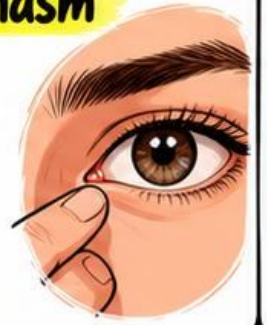
Example:
"It is what it is."



36 Pleonasm

Meaning:
Using more words than necessary to express an idea.

Example:
"I saw it with my own eyes."



37 Inversion

Meaning:
Unusual word order used for emphasis or poetic effect.

Example:
"Great is the power of kindness."



38 Rhetorical Exclamation

Meaning:
An exclamation expressing strong emotion.

Example:
"What a wonderful day!"



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

FIGURES OF SPEECH – IMPORTANT COMPARISONS

1 Irony vs Paradox

- Contrast between expectation and reality or intended meaning.
- **Example:** A fire station catches fire.

vs

- Apparent contradiction in an idea.
- **Example:** Less is more.

2 Metonymy vs Synecdoche

- Uses association (related thing).
- **Example:** The Crown issued a statement.

vs

- Uses a part–whole relationship.
- **Example:** All hands on deck.

3 Repetition vs Anaphora

- Can occur anywhere in a sentence or passage.
- **Example:** He is tired, very tired.

vs

- Repetition at the beginning of successive clauses.
- **Example:** We will learn. We will practise. We will succeed.

4 Antithesis vs Oxymoron

- Contrasts ideas, often in balanced clauses.
- **Example:** Speech is silver, but silence is gold.

vs

- Combines contradictory terms.
- **Example:** Deafening silence.

5 Euphemism vs Litotes

- Softens an unpleasant expression.
- **Example:** He passed away.

vs

- Expresses an idea through negating its opposite.
- **Example:** Not bad.

6 Onomatopoeia vs Alliteration

- Imitates or suggests sounds.
- **Example:** Buzz, bang, hiss, tick-tock.

vs

- Repeats initial consonant sounds.
- **Example:** Big brown bear.

7 Climax vs Anticlimax

- Builds intensity (arrangement from less to more).
- **Example:** He came, he saw, he conquered.

vs

- Produces a sudden drop or bathos.
- **Example:** He studied all night for the test, and then… he overslept.

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

MOST IMPORTANT COMPARISON TABLES

FOR UPSC EPFO | SSC CGL MAINS | AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS



A. Simile vs Metaphor

	Simile	Metaphor
Meaning	Explicit comparison between two unlike things.	Direct or implied comparison between two unlike things.
Key Feature	Uses like or as.	Does not use like or as.
Linking Words	like, as	No linking words
Examples	• He runs like the wind. • She is as busy as a bee.	• He is the wind. • She is a busy bee.
Idea	Comparison is explicit and clear.	Comparison is direct and stronger.

B. Alliteration vs Assonance

	Alliteration	Assonance
Meaning	Repetition of consonant sounds, commonly at the beginning of nearby words.	Repetition of vowel sounds within words or nearby words.
Key Feature	Focus on consonant sounds.	Focus on vowel sounds.
Type of Sound	Consonant sound repetition.	Vowel sound repetition.
Examples	• Busy bees buzz. • Peter picked a peck of pickles.	• Go slow over the road. • The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.
Idea	Creates rhythm and emphasis through consonant sounds.	Creates musical effect through vowel sounds.

C. Paradox vs Oxymoron

	Paradox	Oxymoron
Meaning	An apparently contradictory statement or idea.	Two contradictory terms combined.
Level	Works at the statement or idea level.	Works at the word or phrase level.
Purpose	Often expresses a deeper truth.	Creates a striking or contrasting expression.
Examples	• Less is more. • The only constant is change.	• Deafening silence. • Open secret.
Idea	Contradictory-looking idea with a meaningful point.	Opposites combined in a short expression.

D. Climax vs Anticlimax

	Climax	Anticlimax
Meaning	Arranges words, phrases or ideas in increasing order of intensity.	A sudden decrease from something serious to something trivial.
Sequence	Builds towards a high point.	Drops towards a trivial or unexpected point.
Effect	Creates a rising effect and stronger impact.	Often creates humour or disappointment.
Examples	• He whispered, spoke, shouted, and screamed. • She studied, passed, and topped the country.	• He conquered kingdoms and lost his socks. • She dreamed of fame, fortune, and a free sandwich.
Idea	Gradual rise.	Sudden fall.

E. Hyperbole vs Litotes

	Hyperbole	Litotes
Meaning	Deliberate and obvious exaggeration.	An idea expressed by negating its opposite (often understatement).
Nature	Overstates an idea.	Understates an idea through negation.
Purpose	Emphasis through excess.	Emphasis through denial of the opposite.
Examples	• I have a mountain of work. • I have told you a million times.	• The task is not easy. • He is not without talent.
Idea	Makes the idea seem much larger than it is.	Conveys a positive idea indirectly through negation.

F. Personification vs Imagery

	Personification	Imagery
Meaning	Gives human qualities, feelings, or actions to non-human things.	Descriptive language that creates sensory impressions or vivid mental pictures.
Focus	Human-like action or quality.	Sensory experience (visual, sound, smell, taste, touch).
Examples	• The wind whispered. • The sun smiled at the earth.	• The cold wind brushed my face. • The golden sun lit the quiet valley.
Relation	Can also create imagery.	Does not require personification.
Idea	Non-human + human qualities.	Sensory experience through words.

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

IMPORTANT LITERARY TERMS

FOR UPSC EPFO | SSC CGL MAINS | AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS



Term	Meaning	Examples	Key Points / Notes
Figure of speech	A broad category of expressive language.	"Time is a thief." (metaphor)	Includes simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, etc.
Literal meaning	The ordinary, direct meaning of words.	"The sun rises in the east." → Sun actually rises in the east.	Based on the dictionary or factual meaning.
Figurative meaning	An imaginative or non-literal meaning.	"Time is a thief." → Time passes quickly.	Conveys a deeper idea or emotion; not to be taken literally.
Sound device	A technique based on sounds, such as alliteration and assonance.	"Busy bees buzz." (alliteration) "Go slow over the road." (assonance)	Creates musical effect, rhythm or emphasis through repetition of sounds.
Wordplay	Clever use of words and meanings, as in a pun.	"I used to be a banker, but I lost interest." (pun)	Relies on multiple meanings or similar-sounding words.
Sensory language	Descriptive language that appeals to the senses, as in imagery.	"The warm bread filled the kitchen with a rich aroma."	Appeals to five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, touch.
Understatement	Presenting something as less significant or intense than it really is; litotes is one way to achieve this.	"The task is not easy."	Creates emphasis through deliberate minimisation; litotes uses negation.
Ascending sequence	A progression towards greater intensity or importance, associated with climax.	"He whispered, spoke, shouted, and screamed."	Builds up to a high point; also called a rising sequence (climax).
Descending sequence	A drop in intensity or importance, associated with anticlimax.	"He conquered kingdoms and lost his socks."	Moves from something serious to a trivial or unexpected point (anticlimax).

IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

PRACTICE MCQs

FOR UPSC EPFO | SSC CGL MAINS | AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS



1. "Her cheeks were like roses."

Identify the figure of speech.

- A Metaphor
- B Simile
- C Pun
- D Litotes



2. The classroom was a zoo."

- A Simile
- B Assonance
- C Metaphor
- D Anticlimax



3. "Wild winds whipped the windows."

- A Alliteration
- B Assonance
- C Paradox
- D Imagery only



4. "I have waited for a thousand years."

- A Litotes
- B Pun
- C Hyperbole
- D Oxymoron



5. "The moon bloomed in the blue room."

Which sound device is prominent?

- A Assonance
- B Personification
- C Litotes
- D Climax



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

PRACTICE MCQs

FOR UPSC EPFO | SSC CGL MAINS | AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS



6. "The calendar's days are numbered."

- **A** Pun
- **B** Simile
- **C** Personification
- **D** Anticlimax



7. "She is not without courage."

- **A** Hyperbole
- **B** Litotes
- **C** Assonance
- **D** Oxymoron



8. "The alarm clock screamed at me."

- **A** Metaphor only
- **B** Personification
- **C** Paradox
- **D** Pun



9. "The beginning of the end."

- **A** Alliteration
- **B** Paradox
- **C** Simile
- **D** Hyperbole



10. "Bittersweet memories."

- **A** Oxymoron
- **B** Climax
- **C** Imagery only
- **D** Litotes



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

PRACTICE MCQs

FOR UPSC EPFO | SSC CGL MAINS | AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS

Choose
Think
Attempt All
Check Answers



11. "He pleaded, shouted, and roared."

- A Anticlimax
- B Climax
- C Pun
- D Assonance



12. "He saved the kingdom and then misplaced his hat."

- A Climax
- B Anticlimax
- C Simile
- D Litotes



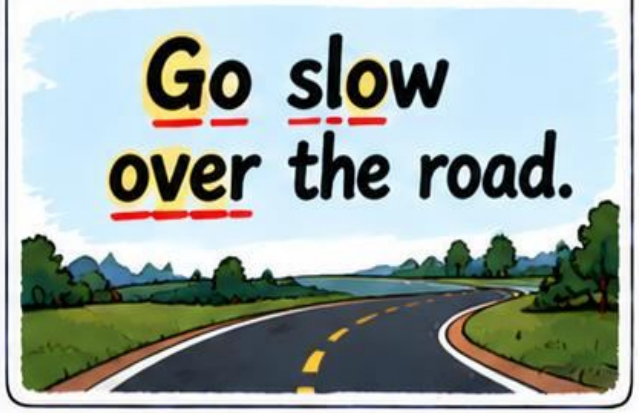
13. "The bitter coffee burned my tongue."

- A Imagery
- B Pun only
- C Paradox
- D Alliteration only



14. Which figure of speech depends primarily on repeated vowel sounds?

- A Alliteration
- B Assonance
- C Repetition
- D Personification



IAS MIND
Belief is Experience

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

FOR UPSC EPFO | SSC CGL MAINS | AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS



Q.No.	Question	Correct Answer (Option)	Explanation
1	"Her cheeks were like roses." 	B Simile	The comparison uses "like," making it a simile.
2	"The classroom was a zoo." 	C Metaphor	The classroom is directly described as a zoo to suggest disorder.
3	"Wild winds whipped the windows." 	A Allliteration	The initial "w" consonant sound is repeated.
4	"I have waited for a thousand years." 	C Hyperbole	The waiting time is deliberately exaggerated.
5	"The moon bloomed in the blue room." 	A Assonance	The repeated long "oo" vowel sound is prominent.
6	"The calendar's days are numbered." 	A Pun	The phrase plays on "numbered" as counted days and the idea of an approaching end.
7	"She is not without courage." 	B Litotes	The positive quality of courage is expressed through negation.

Q.No.	Question	Correct Answer (Option)	Explanation
8	"The alarm clock screamed at me." 	B Personification	The clock is given the human-like action of screaming.
9	"The beginning of the end." 	B Paradox	The expression appears contradictory but can express a meaningful transition.
10	"Bittersweet memories." 	A Oxymoron	Two contrasting terms are combined into one expression.
11	"He pleaded, shouted, and roared." 	B Climax	The intensity increases across the sequence.
12	"He saved the kingdom and then misplaced his hat." 	B Anticlimax	The sentence drops from a grand achievement to a trivial problem.
13	"The bitter coffee burned my tongue." 	A Imagery	The description evokes taste and physical sensation.
14	Which figure of speech depends primarily on repeated vowel sounds? 	B Assonance	Assonance focuses on repeated vowel sounds.