

# Types of Figures of Speech

**Analogy** is a comparison between two objects or concepts in order to show ways in which they are similar. In effect, analogies say “A is to B as C is to D.” The resemblance between these concepts is partial but close enough to provide a striking way of illuminating the relationship the writer wished to establish.

Pollution affects the environment the way cancer affects the body.

**Hyperbole** is extreme exaggeration used to achieve an effect or emphasis. It is rarely appropriate in formal writing.

He *murdered* me on the tennis court.

**Simile** is a direct comparison of two essentially unlike things, linking them with the word *like* or *as*.

Like a small birdcage, her hat rested precariously on her head, and I expected to see the feathers take flight at any moment.

**Metaphor** is a figure of speech that points out similarities between two things by treating them as though they were the same thing. Metaphor states that the thing being described *is* the thing to which it is being compared.

He is the sales department's *utility infielder*.