

# Language Devices Sorting Activity

## Purpose

To identify and understand a range of different language techniques that students might come across on the reading exam.

## Advance Knowledge

It may be useful for students to have come across at least some of the terms already so that they can make some matches quite quickly.

If they haven't heard any of the terms before, you may wish to supply each group with a dictionary or internet access to help if they find it difficult.

## Preparation

Cut out the cards into sets with one set per group. Suggest either printing onto coloured card or coloured paper and laminating.

Print enough copies of page 2 for everyone to have one as a handout once the activity is finished.

## Group size

Small groups of up to 4 people is recommended.

## Task

Sort the cards to match a term (blue edges) with a definition (red edges) with an example (green edges).

There is a set of blank cards so quick groups could try to find another term that isn't mentioned here and write their own definition and example.

Once all groups are finished, go through the answers asking groups to explain their choices. They can turn over cards that they put in the right position and move to one side any they got wrong.

If you prefer, you can give out the handout to any groups who have finished and they can check their own answers.

# Language Devices

Term	Definition	Example
Repetition	Using the same word or phrase a number of times within a text.	She was afraid of the dark. The dark made everything seem scary. The dark could hide monsters. The dark crept up slowly. The dark held terrible secrets.
Alliteration	Using words together that have the same starting sound.	The cheering crowd kept the team motivated during the chaotic game.
Bias	Showing a strong preference for one side or one person/thing. Could be unfair or unjustified.	The products made by our company are superior to all others. Our main competitor's product is made out of cheap materials and breaks easily.
Rhetorical questions	Questions which are not answered but the answer is often implied or thought to be obvious.	Don't you want to help stop the suffering?
Rule of three	Using three examples or three words to describe or explain something.	The role requires someone who is organised, efficient and motivated.
Hyperbole	Excessive exaggeration of something.	If we don't act now, then the whole world will be at risk!
Superlatives	Using descriptive words such as best, greatest, tallest, worst, ugliest to show the thing cannot get any better or worse.	The new model phone is the best because it has the biggest screen and is the fastest on the market.
Metaphors	A way of comparing something using a descriptive phrase.	He drowned in a sea of grief. She rode a rollercoaster of emotions.
Imperative	Way of using a verb at the start of a sentence to make it an instruction.	Check the documents. Read them carefully. Fill in your details.
Idioms	An expression or saying where the literal meaning of the words is not related to the general meaning of the expression.	You hit the nail on the head. He's missed the boat.
Clichés	An overused stereotypical phrase or saying.	It's a piece of cake. Opposites attract.
Humour	Using a joke or comic phrase to engage or amuse the reader.	A man walks into a bookstore. "Where's the self-help section?" he asks the clerk. She shrugs and replies, "If I tell you, won't that defeat the purpose?"
Colloquial expressions	Using informal words or phrases in a text. They often reflect the geographical society the writer is depicting.	'What's up?' He ain't got the guts.

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Alliteration	Imperative
Bias	Idioms
Rhetorical questions	Clichés
Rule of three	Humour
Hyperbole	Colloquial expressions
Superlatives	

Using the same word or phrase a number of times within a text.

Using words together that have the same starting sound.

Showing a strong preference for one side or one person/thing. Could be unfair or unjustified.

Questions which are not answered but the answer is often implied or thought to be obvious.

Using three examples or three words to describe or explain something.

Excessive exaggeration of something.

Using descriptive words such as best, greatest, tallest, worst, ugliest to show the thing cannot get any better or worse.

A way of comparing something using a descriptive phrase.

Way of using a verb at the start of a sentence to make it an instruction.

An expression or saying where the literal meaning of the words is not related to the general meaning of the expression.

An overused stereotypical phrase or saying.

Using a joke or comic phrase to engage or amuse the reader.

Using informal words or phrases in a text. They often reflect the geographical society the writer is depicting.

She was afraid of the dark. The dark made everything seem scary. The dark could hide monsters. The dark crept up slowly. The dark held terrible secrets.

The cheering crowd kept the team motivated during the chaotic game.

The products made by our company are superior to all others. Our main competitor's product is made out of cheap materials and breaks easily.

Don't you want to help stop the suffering?

The role requires someone who is organised, efficient and motivated.

If we don't act now, then the whole world will be at risk!

The new model phone is the best because it has the biggest screen and is the fastest on the market.

He drowned in a sea of grief.  
She rode a rollercoaster of emotions.

Check the documents.  
Read them carefully.  
Fill in your details.

You hit the nail on the head.  
He's missed the boat.

It's a piece of cake.  
Opposites attract.

A man walks into a bookstore. "Where's the self-help section?" he asks the clerk. She shrugs and replies, "If I tell you, won't that defeat the purpose?"

'What's up?'  
He ain't got the guts.