

## Paul Carroll's Syllabus of Rhetorical Devices

Alliteration	Repeating an initial consonant. E.g., "the big bully on the block."
Anaphora	Repeating the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or sentences. E.g. "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender." (Churchill)
Anadiplosis	Repetition of the last word of one line or clause to begin the next. Similar to chiasmus (q.v.), but not the same. Eg "The general who became a slave. The slave who became a gladiator. The gladiator who defied an emperor. Striking story!" –Joaquin Phoenix in <i>Gladiator</i>
Aporia	Pretending to be surprised or perplexed. Eg, "Unfaithful to you? My dear, whatever could you mean!?" (Imagine a voice dripping with sarcasm, as aporia and sarcasm or irony often go together)
Epistrophe/Antistrophe	Repeating the same word or phrase at the end of successive clauses or sentences (the counterpart of <i>anaphora</i> ). E.g., "When I was a child I spoke as a child; I understood as a child; I reasoned as a child." (St. Paul)
Antithesis	Arranging contrasting ideas in balanced (and opposing) phrases. E.g. "'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness...'" (Charles Dickens)
Chiasmus	Reversal in the order of words in two otherwise parallel phrases; corresponding pairs arranged not in parallels (a-b-a-b) but in inverted order (a-b-b-a). E.g., "It's not the men in your life that counts, it's the life in your men." (Mae West)
Hyperbole	Exaggeration for emphasis. E.g., "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!"
Irony	Use of words in a way that the opposite of the literal meaning is actually meant. E.g., "I'm so-o-o-o looking forward to my dentist appointment"
Litotes	Understatement in which something is affirmed by negating its opposite (the contrast of hyperbole). E.g. "Not a bad day after all..." -Lottery Winner
Metaphor	Figure of speech in which one class of things is referred to as if it belonged to another class. While a simile states that <i>A</i> is <b>like</b> <i>B</i> , a metaphor states that <i>A</i> <b>is</b> <i>B</i> or substitutes <i>B</i> for <i>A</i> E.g., "All the world's a stage." (Shakespeare)
Metonymy	Figure of speech in which an attribute of a thing or something closely related to it is substituted for the thing itself. E.g., "Number Ten" means "the Prime Minister"
Onomatopoeia	Word that imitates a sound. E.g., "Bang!" or "Buzz"
Oxymoron	Use of two contradictory words or phrases to form a paradox. E.g., "Poor little rich girl."
Paradox	Apparent contradiction which makes sense when you think about it. E.g. "If you want peace prepare for war." (Sun Tzu)
Paraprosdokian	Surprise or unexpected ending to a phrase or sentence. Eg, "She got her good looks from her father; he's a plastic surgeon." — <u>Groucho Marx</u> or "I'm 28 years old, Swedish and, I hope you'll agree, male" –Athenian Marc Gomer (Icebreaker) or "The Land of My Fathers. My fathers can have it!" -Dylan Thomas on Wales. This is also an example of Anadiplosis (q.v.)
Personification	Giving human qualities and abilities to objects or ideas. E.g., "Opportunity is knocking at your door. Let him in!"

Praeteritio (aka Apophasis and Paralipsis)	Drawing attention to a point by pretending to ignore it. E.g., "I shall not discuss my opponent's prior conviction since it's not relevant in this election."
Pun/ Paronomasia	A play on words by either exploiting the multiple meanings of a word or by replacing a word with another, which is similar in sound but different in meaning. E.g. "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana." (Groucho Marx) This is also an example of Zeugma (q.v.).
Sarcasm	A cutting, often ironic remark intended to wound. (To passenger next to you who just finished a too-loud mobile phone conversation) "Could you speak up a bit next time? I don't think they got all your dinner plans in the next car")
Simile	A comparison using "like" or "as". E.g., "My love is like a red, red rose." (Burns) or "Quick as lightning" or "Sting like a bee"
Synecdoche	Figure of speech is which a part is used to represent the whole, the whole for a part, the specific for the general, the general for the specific. E.g., "My <i>wheels</i> " meaning "My car". Or " <i>Brussels</i> is imposing these rules" meaning "The government of the European Union is imposing these rules."
Zeugma	Using a word to modify or govern two or more words when it applies to each in <i>a different way</i> . Eg. "Although Julian works for Virgin Airlines, I'm sure he's anything but." (D. Southcome, London Athenians). See also example of PUN.