

1. **anaphora:** the repetition of wording at the beginning of sequenced clauses. It is used for emphasis.

Example:

"We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, 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." — Winston Churchill

2. **anastrophe:** The inversion of word order. Often, the predicate adjective or direct object is placed first. The first word or phrase is being given emphasis.

Example:

"If once you start down the dark path, forever will it dominate your destiny, consume you it will, as it did Obi-Wan's apprentice." - Yoda

3. **antithesis:** parallel juxtaposition used for the shock of the contrast

Example:

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." Martin Luther King, Jr., speech at St. Louis, 1964

4. **asyndeton:** the absence of coordinating conjunctions within a series or list. The device can affect pace and place emphasis on the last item in the series or the length of the series. Writers often use it to create length in a list, as if there is no end in sight.

Example:

"...and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address"

5. **balanced sentence:** The phrases or clauses balance each other by virtue of their similarity in length, structure, or meaning.

Example: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside still waters.

6. **chiasmus:** reverse parallel structure, also called mirrored parallelism or criss-cross parallelism.

Example:

"By day the frolic, and the dance by night". --Samuel Johnson, The Vanity of Human Wishes

7. **complex sentence:** has one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

Example: Because Katelyn was absent on Tuesday, she was unable to choose her partner.

8. **compound-complex sentence:** has at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause

Example: Because Katelyn and Damarius were absent on Tuesday, they were unable to choose their partners, so the teacher put them together.

9. **compound sentence:** has two or more independent clauses.

Example: Katelyn and Damarius are partners on this project, but each of them wants to be partners with someone else.

***The independent clauses in these sentences are separated by a coordinating conjunction (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So—FANBOYS) or a (:).

10. **dependent clause:** has at least one subject and at least one verb but cannot stand on its own.

11. **epiphora/epistrophe:** repetition at the end of phrases or clauses for the purpose of emphasis.

Example:

"Take whatever idiot they have at the top of whatever agency and give me a better idiot. Give me a caring idiot. Give me a sensitive idiot. Just don't give me the same idiot." (Aaron Broussard, President of Jefferson Parish, speaking about FEMA Chief Michael Brown, Sep. 6, 2005)

12. **independent clause:** has at least one subject and at least one verb and can stand on its own.

13. **interrupted sentence:** Dashes set off non-essential information.

Example: Shawn's first challenge—and there were many—was to confess his crime to his mother

14. **inverted order sentence:** The typical subject-verb-modifier order is switched for effect.

Example: Her fingernails the woman chewed.

15. **juxtaposition:** a broad term for placing ideas side-by-side for the purpose of contrast

Example:

"I would rather be ashes than dust! I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry-rot. I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time." --Jack London

Note the "rather...than" construction of the sentence.

16. **litotes:** can be considered figurative language as well because it is a form of understatement. A simple example would be the description of a teacher as being "not unkind" instead of kind.

Example:

"I am not unaware how the productions of the Grub Street brotherhood have of late years fallen under many prejudices." Jonathan Swift, "A Tale of a Tub," 1704

17. **long and involved sentence:** a sentence that is more than 30 words in length

18. **loose sentence:** The subject and verb come at the beginning of the sentence. These sentences can be rhythmic and descriptive.

Example: I balance work, home, and church life with no small amount of resentment.

19. **medium sentence:** a sentence that is approximately eighteen words in length

20. **natural order sentence:** The subject comes before the verb and may be followed by modifiers.

Example: The woman chewed her fingernails.

21. **parallelism:** the use of identical grammatical structure for emphasis. It is often rhythmical and therefore used often in speeches.

Example:

"So let us begin anew--remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate." President John Kennedy, Inaugural Address, Jan. 20, 1961

22. **parataxis:** juxtaposition without a conjunction (sometimes a dash is used)

"In paratactic prose, clauses are loosely connected, creating a lopping discourse of here's another thing and another thing and another thing. . . ." (Jeanne Fahnestock, *Rhetorical Style: The Uses of Language in Persuasion*. Oxford Univ. Press, 2011)

Examples:

"I came; I saw; I conquered." Julius Caesar

"Dogs, undistinguishable in mire. Horses, scarcely better--splashed to their very blinkers. Foot passengers, jostling one another's umbrellas, in a general infection of ill-temper, and losing their foothold at street corners." (Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*, 1852-1853)

23. **periodic sentence:** The subject and verb come at the end of the sentence. These sentences tend to be dramatic.

Example: At the dawn of time before light or dark, solid or liquid, he spoke.

24. **polysyndeton:** the overuse of conjunctions in a series or list. The strategy serves to highlight the length of the list.

Example:

"Let the whitefolks have their money and power and segregation and sarcasm and big houses and schools and lawns like carpets, and books, and mostly--mostly--let them have their whiteness." Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, 1969

25. **short sentence:** a sentence that is five to eight words in length

26. **simple sentence:** has one independent clause

Example: Katelyn and Damarius are partners on this project.

27. **split order sentence:** The subject is in the middle of the predicate, which is split into two parts.

Example: In Arizona undocumented workers are in constant fear of deportation.

28. **sylllepsis/zeugma:** Syllepsis is a change in definition or word use within a phrase or clause. The device often creates irony and humor and usually involves direct objects. Notice that the strong verbs have two different functions in the examples.

Examples:

"You are free to execute your laws, and your citizens, as you see fit." --Star Trek: The Next Generation

"Kill the boys and the luggage!" --Fluellen in William Shakespeare's *Henry V*

29. **telegraphic sentence:** a sentence that is shorter than five words in length