

FIGURES OF SPEECH

A figure of speech, is a word or phrase that moves away from usual language and is used to create a more creative and beautiful impact in an expression. There are many forms of figures of speech. This month we take up ALLITERATION.

What is alliteration?

Alliteration is a literary technique, in which repetition of the same starting sound occurs in several words of a sentence. This means, you have successive words (most of the times) beginning with the same consonant sound or letter. It is a frequent tool in poetry but it is also common in prose, particularly to highlight short phrases. In poetry, it contributes to harmony of the passage, lending it a musical air.

Alliteration in prose

- 1) Have you forgotten you're facing the finest fighting force ever assembled?
- 2) The apples around can attract all the people to the place.

Alliteration in poetry

Famous poets use this figure of speech to convey and emphasise unusual and vivid images. Probably the most powerful rhythmic and thematic use of alliteration can be seen in 'Beowulf', an example of Medieval Anglo-Saxon poetry which is distinguished by its heavy use of alliteration. Eg. Cunningly creeping, a spectral stalker slunk through the night,

... Wrath was wakeful, watching in hatred; hot-hearted Beowulf was bent upon battle.

Alliteration is most obviously used in modern English in article titles, tongue twisters, advertisements, comic strip or cartoon characters, and common expressions:

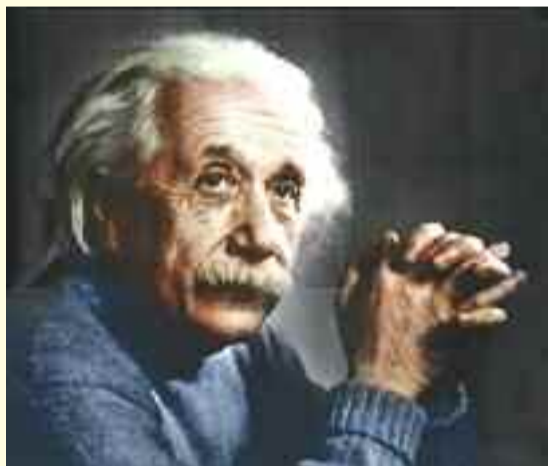
- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers OR She sells sea shells by the sea shore are examples of tongue twisters.
- Besides, expressions like Baby Boom, Back to Basics and Making Magic or names of characters like King Kong, Mickey Mouse and Beetle Bailey are also examples of Alliteration.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Knowledge must continually be renewed by ceaseless effort, if it is not to be lost. It resembles a statue of marble which stands in the desert and is continually threatened with burial by the shifting sand. The hands of service must ever be at work, in order that the marble continue to lastingly shine in the sun..."

"...The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvellous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."



Nobel prize winning, German physicist Albert Einstein was trained as a teacher in physics and mathematics. He received honorary doctorate degrees in science, medicine and philosophy from many European and American universities. He is best known for his theory of relativity and specifically mass-energy equivalence, expressed by the equation $E = mc^2$. Einstein received the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his contribution to Theoretical Physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect. Einstein published over 300 scientific works and over 150 non-scientific works. In 1999 Time magazine named him the "Person of the Century".

Albert Einstein {1879 - 1955}

WORD POWER

fiasco (noun) : a debacle or a bad failure – The programme was a big fiasco.

fickle (adjective) : changeable – There is no point in telling him anything as he is fickle minded.

finesse (noun) : skill or accomplishment – The finesse of the artist was seen in the painting.

flamboyant (adjective) : extravagant – Despite his low income, Rahul leads a very flamboyant life.

flaunt (verb) : to show off – A intelligent man need not flaunt his intelligence; while a fool does it all the time.

flout (verb) : to reject or to defy – We must not flout the rules of the land and behave like dutiful citizens of the country.