



Grammar
Reference

Overview of topics

- Irony
- Simile
- Metaphor
- Idiom
- Proverb
- Speech (Dir < - > Indir)

Irony

- Irony is the juxtaposition of what, on the surface, appears to be the case with what is actually or expected to be the case.
- There is a contradiction between the situation and often, the expectation of what should be happening.
- There is an element of humour.
- *Exemplis grati* – A fire-engine catching fire, something stolen from a police station, saying “oh, so tidy!” about a messy room.

Irony

Irony therefore may be considered broadly as:

- Situational irony –
A contradiction between what is observed/what is expected
Selling a watch strap to buy a watch, a
“Do not steal” sign being stolen
- Verbal irony – Deliberately saying the opposite of what is intended.
“Oh so interesting!” - student, during a boring lesson.

Irony (ctd.)

Irony is not:

- An unfortunate situation (rain on one's wedding day)
- An unpleasant event (a dentist appointment leading to the extraction of teeth)
- Coincidence (meeting someone with the same birthday as you)

Simile

- A comparison made between two different entities using “like” or “as ___ as”
- This is often a direct comparison between two unlike objects.
- The objective is to connect dots in the listener’s mind about some adjective (or trait) in one object that reminds them of the same trait in another object.

Similes, ctd.

- The object that is being compared to, needs to be commonly known to hold the traits or characteristics that you want to convey.

E.g - The cloak was as black as a waterbottle - Meaningless as this is only of value if the listener knows *exactly* what waterbottle you're talking about.

vs

The cloak was as dark as night. - Meaningful because the knowledge that night is dark is commonly known to all.

Like

- When using “like”, there is a greater need for the desired trait and its associations to be well-known.
E.g - She’s like a lioness (brave, hardworking, effective)
He’s like a fox (cunning, secretive, mysterious)
They’re like a door (uncertain- a door is either flimsy or strong, big or small, open or closed).
- If there is confusion in the association of traits to a given object, the simile struggles to make sense.

As <adjective> as

- The clearest way to make a direct comparison between two unlike objects.
- You need to specify precisely what trait you want to compare, so there's less room for misinterpretation.
- E.g - That kid is as noisy as a train.
That girl is as sharp as a shark
- Very often used in poetry.

Metaphor

- Another form of making a comparison between two extremely unlike objects.
- There is no “like” or “as ___ as” used, so the comparison is more direct.
- E.g – He’s a real weasel. (An untrustworthy person, who slinks away when there’s trouble)
Life’s a box of chocolates (It’s a varied lot and you don’t always know what you’ll get)

Idiom

- A phrase that usually conveys special meaning, even though the literal meaning of the words used doesn't necessarily make sense. E.g - Spill the beans / kick the bucket.
- The usage of the idiom can be traced to some specific culture or historical event or daily experience, almost like a meme.

Idioms (cont)

- The words used in an idiom are fixed and cannot be altered to customised to a specific situation.

For instance, you cannot “let the cats out of the bag”, even if there are multiple secrets. The idiom will stay as “let the cat out of the bag” to convey the meaning of some secret having been divulged.

Allowable exception - If you're making a pun, using an idiom, then you may alter the words for comedic effect.

E.g- if an illegal can of pasta falls out of someone's bag, you could say they “let the can out of the bag”.

Proverbs

- Short sayings that are often shared to communicate wisdom or shared cognisance of a particular human phenomenon.
E.g - A stitch in time, saves nine. -
To convey that early action taken will prevent excessive effort needed down the line to repair the same situation, if left untreated.

Proverbs (contd.)

- As with idioms, the words used don't (or rarely, except in the case of irony) really apply in their literal meaning.
E.g - "Too many cooks spoil the broth" doesn't literally only apply in the kitchen. It applies in any other arena where there are too many people trying to contribute to something but it ends up affecting the group's effort.

Also, as with idioms, the words of the proverb are fixed and need to be communicated as such, except in the case of a pun/word play. Try to come up with an example for yourself.

Direct, indirect speech

- Direct speech – Words quoted as directly said by a person, using quotation marks “ ” or double quotation marks “ ”. Often used in storybooks, to indicate dialogues or internal thoughts of characters.
E.g. - Obi-wan said, “Hello there!”
- Indirect speech – Words reported to the reader by someone who observed or heard someone else say the words.
E.g. - Anakin said that he hated sand.

Uses – Direct speech

- Direct speech is used when trying to convey unaltered words of a person. This is used in novels, or when reporters cover a story for a newspaper/journal. It is essential to quote a person exactly as they said the words.
- Even if the person who originally spoke the lines made a grammatical error, in direct speech, it is necessary to write the words exactly and not modify them. *E.g.* - George W. Bush said, “Don’t misunderestimate (*sic*) me!”

Uses - Indirect speech

- Often used in reports, to summarise speeches into denser, more digestible nuggets of information. E.g. - Marc Anthony, in his speech, asked that all Romans heed his words. He said that he came to bury Caesar and not to praise him. He added that the good that men do is forgotten and buried with their bodies, while the bad would go on to live after the person has perished.

Uses - Indirect speech (contd.)

- It is important to note that with reported or indirect speech, there is a tendency to convey the writer's bias while reporting on the words spoken by another person. Since it's not an exact reproduction of the speech, there is room for a person's own worldviews to interfere with the words that they're conveying or the tone in which they are communicated.
E.g. - Todd asked, "What are you doing here, Dirk?" could be rewritten as either: "Todd asked what Dirk was doing there" or "Todd demanded what Dirk was doing there".

Conversions

Direct to indirect:

- Drop the “” or “ ” entirely.
- Often, the word “that” will need to be added after the reporting verb (said that / told us that / informed us that /...”
- The tenses in the speech will be transformed into the past versions of themselves. Refer to the next slide to see what the conversion looks like from a tense perspective.
- Pronouns are also altered based on the speakers/listeners in the speech.
- Events/temporal landmarks (tomorrow/yesterday) are altered, as are spatial landmarks (demonstrative adjectives).

Conversion from Direct to Indirect speech - Tenses

Direct speech ->	Becomes in Indirect
Present / Future Simple	Past simple
Present / Future Continuous	Past continuous
Present / / Future Perfect	Past perfect
Present / Future Perfect continuous	Past perfect continuous
Past simple	Past perfect
Past continuous	Past perfect continuous
Past perfect	Past perfect
Past perfect continuous	Past perfect continuous
Can	Could
Will	Would
May	Might

Conversion from Direct to Indirect speech – Pronouns + Time + Questions

From	To
“You...”	I/He/She/We/They
“Me...”	Her/Him/Them
“She/He...”	She/He
“We/Us”	They/Them
“I”	He/She
“It”	“It”
“Tomorrow/Next year...”	The next day/the following year
“Yesterday/Last year...”	The previous day/the preceding year
“Will you be coming?” she asked	She asked if/whether they would be coming
He said, “ Don’t chew the gummy bear!” (imperative)	He told us not to eat the gummy bear.
She wondered, “Do all aliens have ten noses?”	She wondered if all aliens had ten noses.

Final notes/reflections

- When converting from direct to indirect speech, it's essential to know who's speaking and to whom. The actual use of "told" vs "said" vs "admitted" vs "offered" is secondary to knowing who's saying what and to whom.
- With time, the frame of reference needs to be known.