

AICE English Language – Terms to Know

1. **Alliteration** - The repetition of an initial consonant sound.
2. **Allusion** - A brief, usually indirect reference to a person, place, or event--real or fictional.
3. **Analogy** - Reasoning or arguing from parallel cases.
4. **Anaphora** - The repetition of the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or verses.
5. **Aphorism** - (1) A tersely phrased statement of a truth or opinion. (2) A brief statement of a principle.
6. **Apostrophe** - A rhetorical term for breaking off discourse to address some absent person or thing.
7. **Assonance** - The identity or similarity in sound between internal vowels in neighboring words.
8. **Asyndeton** - The omission of conjunctions between words, phrases, or clauses (opposite of polysyndeton).
9. **Chiasmus** - A verbal pattern in which the second half of an expression is balanced against the first but with the parts reversed.
10. **Climax** - Mounting by degrees through words or sentences of increasing weight and in parallel construction with an emphasis on the high point or culmination of a series of events.
11. **Colloquial** - Characteristic of writing that seeks the effect of informal spoken language as distinct from formal or literary English.
12. **Comparison** - A rhetorical strategy in which a writer examines similarities and/or differences between two people, places, ideas, or objects.
13. **Conjunction** - The part of speech (or word class) that serves to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.
14. **Connotation** - The emotional implications & associations a word may carry.
15. **Denotation** - The direct or dictionary meaning of a word, in contrast to its figurative or associated meanings.
16. **Dialect** - A regional or social variety of a language distinguished by pronunciation, grammar, and/or vocabulary.
17. **Diction** - (1) The choice and use of words in speech or writing.
18. **Didactic** - Intended or inclined to teach or instruct, often excessively.
19. **Epiphora** - The repetition of a word or phrase at the end of several clauses. (Also known as *epistrophe*.)
20. **Ethos** - A persuasive appeal based on the projected character of the speaker or narrator.
21. **Euphemism** - The substitution of an inoffensive term for one considered offensively explicit.
22. **Extended Metaphor** - A comparison between two unlike things that continues throughout a series of sentences in a paragraph or lines in a poem.
23. **Figurative Language** - Language in which figures of speech (such as metaphors, similes, and hyperbole) freely occur.
24. **Figures of Speech** - The various uses of language that depart from customary construction, order, or significance.
25. **Flashback** - A shift in a narrative to an earlier event that interrupts the normal chronological development of a story.
26. **Genre** - A category of artistic composition, as in film or literature, marked by a distinctive style, form, or content.
27. **Hyperbole** - A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; an extravagant statement.
28. **Idiom** - A figure of speech whose meaning is culturally defined and cannot be directly translated, e.g. "piece of cake"
29. **Imagery** - Vivid descriptive language that appeals to one or more of the senses.
30. **Invective** - Denunciatory or abusive language; discourse that casts blame on somebody or something.
31. **Irony** - The use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning. A statement or situation where the meaning is directly contradicted by the appearance or presentation of the idea.
32. **Jargon** - The specialized language of a professional, occupational, or other group, often meaningless to outsiders.

33. **Juxtaposition** - Placing dissimilar items, descriptions, or ideas close together or side by side, especially for comparison or contrast.
34. **Logos** - Employs logical reasoning, combining a clear idea (or multiple ideas) with well-thought-out and appropriate examples and details. These supports are logically presented and rationally reach the writer's conclusion.
35. **Meiosis** - The Greek term for understatement or belittling; a rhetorical figure by which something is referred to in terms less important than it really deserves
36. **Metaphor** - A figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between two unlike things that actually have something important in common.
37. **Metonymy** - A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated (such as "crown" for "royalty").
38. **Mood** - (1) The quality of a verb that conveys the writer's attitude toward a subject. (2) The emotion evoked by a text.
39. **Onomatopoeia** - The formation or use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to.
40. **Oxymoron** - A figure of speech in which incongruous or contradictory terms appear side by side.
41. **Paradox** - A statement that appears to contradict itself.
42. **Parallelism** - The similarity of structure in a pair or series of related words, phrases, or clauses.
43. **Parody** - A literary or artistic work that imitates the characteristic style of an author or a work for comic effect or ridicule.
44. **Pathos** - The means of persuasion that appeals to the audience's emotions.
45. **Personification** - A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.
46. **Point of View** - The perspective from which a speaker or writer tells a story or presents information.
47. **Prose** - Ordinary writing (both fiction and nonfiction) as distinguished from verse.
48. **Pun** - a word employed in two senses, or a word used in a context that suggests a second term sounding like it. Puns are usually used for comic effect.
49. **Refutation** - The part of an argument wherein a speaker or writer anticipates and counters opposing points of view.
50. **Repetition** - An instance of using a word, phrase, or clause more than once in a short passage--dwelling on a point.
51. **Rhetoric** - The study and practice of effective persuasion in speaking or writing.
52. **Rhetorical Question** - A question asked merely for effect with no answer expected.
53. **Sarcasm** - A mocking, often ironic or satirical remark.
54. **Satire** - A text or performance that uses irony, derision, or wit to expose or attack human vice, foolishness, or stupidity.
55. **Simile** - A figure of speech in which two fundamentally unlike things are explicitly compared, usually in a phrase introduced by "like" or "as."
56. **Style** - Narrowly interpreted as those figures that ornament speech or writing; broadly, as representing a manifestation of the person speaking or writing.
57. **Symbol** - A person, place, action, or thing that (by association, resemblance, or convention) represents something other than itself.
58. **Synecdoche** - A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole, the whole for a part, the specific for the general, the general for the specific, or the material for the thing made from it.
59. **Syntax** - (1) The study of the rules that govern the way words combine to form phrases, clauses, and sentences. (2) The arrangement of words in a sentence.
60. **Tone** - A writer's attitude toward the subject and audience. Tone is primarily conveyed through diction, point of view, syntax, and level of formality.
61. **Understatement** - A figure of speech in which a writer deliberately makes a situation seem less important or serious than it is.
62. **Voice** - (1) The quality of a verb that indicates whether its subject acts (*active voice*) or is acted upon (*passive voice*). (2) The distinctive style or manner of expression of an author or narrator.