

Figurative language

# Hyperbole



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# What is Hyperbole and when do we use it?

**Hyperbole** is a type of **figurative language**, where an idea, action, situation or feeling is exaggerated in order to emphasise a point or create humour. It also helps to create an image in the reader's mind by over-emphasising something through the use of extreme language.

Because it is a type of **figurative language**, it is not literal and so cannot actually happen.

**Hyperbole** makes the action or emotion seem more dramatic than it actually is!



**Look at these examples. What do they mean?**

It feels like next weekend is never going to arrive.

My brother is stronger than iron!

Your brain is the size of a pea.

I've read this magazine a hundred times.



It feels like next weekend is never going to arrive.

I am impatient waiting for the next weekend to come so it feels as if time is slowing down.

My brother is stronger than iron!

My brother seems really strong to me.

Your brain is the size of a pea.

You aren't very intelligent.

I've read this magazine a hundred times.

This magazine is old and I've read it many times. I am not interested in reading it again.



# The Tantrum Felt Round the World

## by Kelly Roper

When little Janie's mother told her, "No more ice cream,"  
Janie's face turned red, and her ears began to steam.  
Her body trembled harder than a huge earthquake,  
And when she opened up her mouth, let there be no mistake,  
She let out the most terrifying, awful shrieking scream,  
The likes of which a million banshees only dared to dream.  
The vibrations from this tantrum could be felt across the ground,  
They shook the entire U.S. and then they traveled the whole world round.  
Her hellish scream travelled on the winds to places far and wide,  
And no-one could escape it; there was nowhere they could hide.  
But Janie's mother wasn't impressed with this kind of behaviour.  
She grounded Janie for three weeks and refused to relent or waiver.



## Read the poem again.

When little Janie's mother told her, "No more ice cream,"  
Janie's face turned red, and her ears began to steam.  
Her body trembled harder than a huge earthquake,  
And when she opened up her mouth, let there be no mistake,  
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Her hellish scream travelled on the winds to places far and wide,  
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But Janie's mother wasn't impressed with this kind of behaviour.  
She grounded Janie for three weeks and refused to relent or waiver.

## Can you identify examples of hyperbole?

Remember that **hyperbole** is a type of **figurative language**, where an idea, action, situation or feeling is exaggerated in order to emphasise a point or create humour.





## Why are these examples of hyperbole? Discuss with your talk partner.

When little Janie's mother told her, "No more ice cream,"

Janie's face turned red, and *her ears began to steam.*

*Her body trembled harder than a huge earthquake,*

And when she opened up her mouth, let there be no mistake,

She let out *the most terrifying, awful shrieking scream,*

The likes of which a million banshees only dared to dream.

*The vibrations from this tantrum could be felt across the ground,*

They *shook the entire U.S. and then they traveled the whole world round.*

Her hellish scream travelled on the winds to places far and wide,

And *no-one could escape it*; there was nowhere they could hide.

But Janie's mother wasn't impressed with this kind of behaviour.

She grounded Janie for three weeks and refused to relent or waiver.

Example:

*'her ears began to steam'*

We use this expression to show that someone is really angry but it is impossible for steam to come out of a human's ears!



# You try!

## Hyperbole

**Hyperbole** is an exaggeration used for emphasis or humour.

It is often used to make a certain element of a story seem more interesting.

e.g. I was bored to tears.

1. Use the word bank to complete the famous sayings that use **hyperbole** within them.

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| mountains | army  |
| pin       | horse |

- a) He'd move \_\_\_\_\_ for his daughter.
- b) I am so hungry I could eat a \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) She could hear a \_\_\_\_\_ drop a mile away.
- d) There's enough food in this cupboard to feed an entire \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Match the boxes to complete the **hyperbolic** sentences.

This is the worst restaurant

faster than the wind.

She is running

weighs a ton.

3. Tick the correct box to show whether the sentence includes a simile or a metaphor.

| Saying                           | Meaning | Picture |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| My iPad is a million years old.  |         |         |
| I could play on my Xbox forever. |         |         |
| I'll be there in two seconds!    |         |         |
| I'm so hot I'm going to melt.    |         |         |
| She never stops talking!         |         |         |

