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Use alliteration in a sentence examples

Alliteration is a literary device that reflects repetition in two or more nearby words of initial consonant sounds. Alliteration does not refer to the repetition of consonant letters that begin words, but rather the repetition of the consonant sound at the beginning of words. For example, the phrase “kids’ coats” is alliterative; though the words begin with different consonant letters, they produce the same consonant sounds. Similarly, the phrase “phony people” is not alliterative; though both words begin with the same consonant, the initial consonant sounds are different. In addition, for alliteration to be effective, alliterative words should flow in quick succession. If there are too many non-alliterative words in between, then the literary device is not purposeful.For example, alliterative “tongue twisters” are useful for encouraging language learners, generally children, to hear the similar sound repeated at the beginning of several words. A well known alliterative tongue twister is: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked. However, though alliterative tongue twisters are associated with children, they are useful for practicing and improving pronunciation, fluency, and articulation. They are often utilized by actors, politicians, and public speakers for verbal exercises in clarity of speaking.Common Examples of Alliteration in Everyday SpeechPeople use alliterative phrases frequently in everyday conversation. These phrases can sometimes sound cliché; however, they are effective in expressing both broad and familiar meaning. Here are some examples of alliteration in everyday speech:rocky roadbig businesskissing cousinsjumping jacksno nonsensetough talkquick questionmoney matterspicture perfecthigh heavenExamples of Alliteration in Popular CultureAlliteration is a common approach for advertising, marketing, and other elements of popular culture in that the repetition of initial letter sounds can be attention-grabbing and memorable for consumers, viewers, etc. Here are some familiar examples of alliteration in popular culture:Coca ColaDunkin’ DonutsPolly PocketTonka TrucksWeight WatchersRainbow RoomDippin’ DotsFantastic FourHip HopPaw PatrolDoor DashHouse HuntersFamous Examples of Alliteration in Fictional Character NamesMany artists and writers also utilize alliteration for fictional character names. This literary device allows for the creation of memorable as well as fun-sounding names, particularly in terms of children’s entertainment or literature. Here are some examples of alliteration in fictional character names:Lois LanePeter ParkerWonder WomanMiss MuffetBob the BuilderWicked Witch of the WestMickey MouseMinnie MouseBugs BunnyDaffy DuckDonald DuckDaisy DuckPig PenBeetle BaileyPeppa PigHolly HobbieKris KringleShaun the SheepPhineas and FerbBuster BaxterDifference Between Alliteration, Consonance, and AssonanceAlliteration, consonance, and assonance are all literary devices that are utilized as a means of creating emphasis, attention, significance, and importance to words in poetry, prose, or speech. These literary devices can be used for both artistic and rhetorical effect. Alliteration almost exclusively refers to the repetition of initial consonant sounds across the start of several words in a line of text.The repetition of vowel sounds is generally excluded from alliteration, and categorized instead as assonance. Assonance refers to the repetition of vowel sounds, whether at the beginning, middle, or end, of words in close proximity to each other in a line of text. Consonance, of which alliteration is considered a subcategory, is the repetition of consonant sounds in successive words. Like assonance, consonance refers to the repetition of these sounds at the beginning, middle, or end of words. However, alliteration is limited to consonant sounds repeated at the beginning of words.Examples of Alliteration in LiteratureAlliteration is a useful device in literary works. The repetition of initial consonant sounds can have a pleasing effect for readers and listeners. In addition, it calls attention to the rhetorical and artistic impact of the words in that alliteration signifies that the alliterative words are linked purposefully and thematically. This allows writers to turn the focus of their audience on the subject presented.Here are some examples of alliteration in literature:Example 1: The Raven (Edgar Allan Poe)Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore— While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.“’Tis some visitor,” I muttered, “tapping at my chamber door— Only this and nothing more.” Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December;And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor. Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore— Nameless here for evermore. And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtainThrilled me—filled me This it is and nothing more.“In this first stanza of his well known poem, Poe utilizes alliteration to build a poetic mood. The poet begins his descriptive alliteration with “weak and weary” as well as “nodded, nearly napping” to establish a somnambulate atmosphere. The repetition of these sounds enhances their poetic effect, emphasizing the disillusioned and heartbroken subject of the poem and the thematic intention of the poet. As a result, the sudden “tapping” at the door is both a surprise to the poet and reader.Poe’s use of alliteration in the first few stanzas continues throughout the entire poem. The presence of this literary device within the poetic lines reinforces the raven’s repetitious answer to the poet, “nevermore,” and underscores the escalating mood of fear, desperation, and frustration felt by the poet. This creates a similar effect for readers as they share in the poem’s mood and the poet’s emotions and experience.The time you won your town the raceWe chaired you through the market-place;Man and boy stood cheering by,And home we brought you shoulder-high.Today, the road all runners come,Shoulder-high we bring you home,And set you at your threshold down,Townsmen of a stiller town.Smart lad, to slip betimes awayFrom fields where glory does not stay,And early though the laurel growslt withers quicker than the rose.Eyes the shady night has shutCannot see the record cut,And silence sounds no worse than cheersAfter earth has stopped the ears.Now you will not swell the routOf lads that wore their honours out,Runners whom renown outranAnd the name died before the man.So set, before its echoes fade,The fleet foot on the sill of shade,And hold to the low lintel upThe still-defended challenge-cup.And round that early-laurelled headWill flock to gaze the strengthless dead,And find unwithered on its curlsThe garland briefer than a girl’s.In this poem, Housman creates what may be considered a “preemptive” elegy to an athlete who is dying. In each stanza, the poet incorporates alliteration as a literary device to emphasize the intention of the poem. In addition, the alliterative wording reflects the poet’s use of artistic expression as a means of elegizing the athlete. For example, the lines “Eyes the shady night has shut / Cannot see the record cut” each feature alliteration that underscores the theme of the poem. Once the athlete has died, indicated by the euphemistic phrase “his eyes are shut by the shady night,” he won’t have lived to see his legacy undone; upon his death, the athlete “cannot see” his record “cut,” as in broken or surpassed by someone else.Housman’s use of alliteration also mirrors the power of the athlete. For example, the poet uses alliterative phrases such as “fleet foot” and “the road all runners come” to indicate that the athlete, in a sense, has won a race against time. Rather than outliving his renown among the living, the poet suggests that the athlete will be renowned among the dead as they flock to see his laurel. This creates a sense of irony in the poem in that the poet appears to appreciate the athlete dying young and triumphant instead of lamenting the early loss of someone young and strong. In alliteration, words that begin with the same sound are placed close together. Although alliteration often involves repetition of letters, most importantly, it is a repetition of sounds. Example Phillip’s feet is an alliteration because the sounds are the same. On the other hand: Cheerful cop It might begin with the same letters, but it is not alliteration because the sounds are not the same. The word alliteration comes from the Latin word laira, meaning “letters of the alphabet.” II. Examples of Alliteration Let’s look at some common examples Example 1 Here’s another alliterations repeting the ‘a’ and ‘t’ sounds: Allie likes all alliterations! Example 2 You might have heard this alliteration that repeats the ‘s’ and ‘t’ sounds: Sally sells seashells by the seashore. Example 3 Another popular alliteration that repeats the ‘p’ sound: Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers. III. The Importance of Alliteration Alliteration is a useful sound device found in many types of literature but mostly in poetry. Businesses and advertisers use alliteration to call attention to company names and products. Many famous quotes and sayings also use alliteration. This is because the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words allow rhythm and musicality. It also makes a phrase easy to memorize and fun to read or say out loud. Certain sounds can affect the mood of a poem. Alliteration can be used to give a poem a calm, smooth feeling or a loud, harsh feeling. For example, the phrase “Singing songs of the seaside” utilizes the “s” sound. This gives the phrase a soft and smooth sound. Meanwhile, the phrase “Keep that crazy cat out!” uses a hard “k” sound. This gives the phrase a harsh sound and adds a threatening tone. Because alliteration is such a bold and noticeable device, it may be used to call attention to a certain subject. Many great speech-makers have used alliteration to emphasize certain parts of their arguments. For example, see Martin Luther King, Jr.’s famous quote: I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. Here, King uses alliteration to emphasize that racism (judgment based on skin color) must be replaced by equality (judgment based on content of character). IV. Examples of Alliteration in Literature Alliteration mostly occurs in poetry for its rhythmic and musical qualities. Its ability to shape the mood of a poem with hard or soft sounds is especially useful to poets. Here are a few examples of alliteration in poetry: Example 1 Robert Frost uses alliteration in “Acquainted with the Night”: I have looked down the saddest city lane. I have passed by the watchman on his beat And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain. I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet When far away an interrupted cry Came over houses from another street Looked and lane; by and beat; stood, still, stopped, and sound; and cry and came! This alliterations in this poem are subtler than a tongue twister, but strong enough to provide rhythm. Example 2 Samuel Taylor Coleridge uses alliteration in “Rime of the Ancient Mariner”: The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, The furrow followed free; We were the first that ever burst Into that silent sea. There are several types of alliteration here. The “f” sound used in fair, foam, flew, furrow, followed, free, and first. The “b,” sound in breeze and blew. The “w,” in we and were. Lastly, the “s,” in the silent sea. V. Examples of Alliteration in Pop Culture Example 1 Alliteration is often seen in advertising and business names for easy memorization and recognition. American Apparel American Airlines Best Buy Coca-Cola Dunkin’ Donuts Krispy Kreme Certainly, the list goes on. Example 2 Similarly, many celebrities and cartoon characters are given alliterative names: Donald Duck Fred Flinstone Marilyn Monroe Mickey Mouse Porky Pig Sammy Sosa Example 3 Other times it serves to emphasize main characters over other characters. For example, the television show Spongebob Squarepants has many characters including: Patrick Star Sandy Cheeks Spongebob Squarepants Squidward Tentacles Most characters in the show have names that match with the type of animal they are, such as Patrick Star the Starfish. However, it is the main character Spongebob Squarepants who is given the alliterative name. This marks him as the main character of the television show. Alliteration is also common in article titles, advertisements, and media to draw attention. Placing similar sounds is catchy and easy to remember, such as Seventeen’s article “What Gift Should You Give Your Guy?” and New York Times’ “The Lives They Lived.” VI. Related Terms (Terms: assonance and consonance) Assonance Like alliteration, assonance involves the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words, assonance is repetition of vowel sounds within words. Alliteration and assonance are both used by poets to create rhythm. The sounds within words make assonance more subtle than alliteration. This is because the sounds at the beginning of words are more prominent and noticeable. Here is an example: Alliteration: Alice ate all of the apples in the afternoon. Assonance: We’ll wait til May when the shade blocks the sun’s rays. Where alliteration is easy to recognize, assonance is not so clear; wait, May, shade, and rays, marked in bold, share an “a” vowel sound. On the other hand, this sentence has both devices: We’ll wait til May when the shade blocks the sun’s rays. Adding the repetition of “w” sounds and “s” sounds at the beginning of words, gives the line alliteration. With both alliteration and assonance at work, this line has a rhythm and musicality it would otherwise not have. Consonance Like alliteration, consonance involves the repetition of sounds. Unlike alliteration, it only uses consonants but anywhere within words. Meanwhile, alliteration repeats both consonant or vowel sounds but only at the beginning of words. Here are a few examples of consonance versus alliteration: Consonance: Ted’s tap shoes pitter patter and tap at the talent show. Here, the repetition of the “t” sound occurs throughout the sentence as consonance. Pitter patter is an example of consonance for the “p” and “t” sounds. Alliteration is slightly less common. Alliteration: Ted’s tap shoes pitter patter and tap at the talent show. In this sentence, we can see repetition of the “t” and “p” sounds as both alliteration and consonance. VII. Conclusion Alliteration is a useful poetic device in which certain sounds are repeated at the beginning of words in a sentence or phrase. It may be used to draw attention to certain phrases and can provide rhythm and musicality. Alliteration can be found in literature and pop culture alike, from famous speeches to cartoon character names.

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