

INTRODUCTION

The *Daily Warm-Ups series* is a wonderful way to turn extra classroom minutes into valuable learning time. The 180 quick activities help students practise writing and language skills. The exercises in this book invite students to think about figurative language and use it more imaginatively.

We use figurative language to add colour, drama, persuasiveness, ornament, clarity and wit. To speak literally all the time would make language dull and limit our abilities to express our emotions. These exercises will open students' eyes to figurative language around them, in popular culture and every day life. Students will learn about alliteration, antithesis, metaphor, simile, paradox, euphemism, onomatopoeia and more. Their writing will improve as they become familiar with using these various tools of figurative language.

In addition to helping students warm up and focus, they are a natural lead-in to other classroom activities involving writing. You may want to use the activities for revision on students' skills as they are acquired and built over time.

They may be used at the beginning of class to get students into thinking mode, near the end of class to make good use of transitional time or in the middle of class to help students shift gears between lessons. However you choose to use them, *Daily Warm-Ups* are a convenient and useful supplement to your regular class lessons. Make every minute of your class time count!

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Assonance



The first stanza of Francis Ledwidge's poem "Lament for Thomas MacDonagh" uses assonance.

He shall not hear the bittern cry

In the wild sky, where he is lain,

Nor voices of the sweeter birds

Above the wailing of the rain.

First, underline all the examples of assonance in these lines. Then use assonance as you write the first stanza of your own lament. The lament could be for a friend who has moved away, the end of holidays or another topic of your choice.

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Assonance



Read the word pairs below. If they contain assonance, write Y for yes on the line. If they do not, write N for no.

_____ 1. fruit/bait

_____ 2. grave/drive

_____ 3. purple/hurt

_____ 4. night/cry

_____ 5. caught/mop

_____ 6. pen/pun

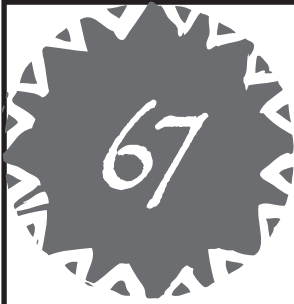
_____ 7. teeth/compete

_____ 8. bath/house

_____ 9. most/dust

_____ 10. birth/curse

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Imagery

Good writing often means not using the obvious word to describe something. For example, to describe grass, you could use the word *green*. Or you could use the name of a specific shade of green, such as *olive*, *sage*, *lime* or *mint*.

Read the following facts about flamingos.

Flamingos are a type of wading bird. Their feathers are pink. They are about 1.5 metres tall, with long, thin legs.

Now, write a description of a flock of flamingos. Do not use any of the following adjectives in your description.

pink long tall thin

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Imagery

Read the paragraph below. Notice that it is devoid of vivid imagery! After you have read the paragraph, think about ways the author could have enticed a reader by including descriptive language. Then rewrite the paragraph using imagery. Try to appeal to all a reader's senses. But remember, too much imagery can seem forced or can bore the reader.

Yesterday, we walked down to the pond. It was hot outside. We went swimming in the water. Ian did a cannonball off the dock. We swam for hours. We ate sandwiches under a tree. Then we took a walk. At the end of the day, bugs started biting us. We headed home, just in time to see the sun setting.

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Paradox

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A paradox is often used to get people to think more thoroughly about a particular subject.

Read the following paradox stated by the Spanish philosopher Baltasar Gracián (1601–1658).

Sometimes it proves the highest understanding not to understand.

What do you think Gracián meant by this statement? Write your answer in a short paragraph below.

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Paradox

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Oscar Wilde was an Irish writer. He often used paradoxes in his plays and other works. The quotations below are from Oscar Wilde. Read them carefully. Then choose one, and explain what it means.

A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything but the value of nothing.

Anyone can sympathise with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathise with a friend's success.

I can resist everything except temptation.

I have very simple tastes, I am always satisfied with the very best.

Always forgive your enemies – nothing annoys them so much.

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