



REAL ENGLISH

GET ENGLISH USEFUL FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE!

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Society

比喩で広がるあなたの世界

「雪のように白い肌」。雪を見たことのない人でも使っている表現かもしれません。比喩表現を使う意味を考えると、瞬時に視覚的なイメージを与える分かりやすさや、発信者による言葉の選択によっては新しく鮮烈なイメージを聞き手に与えたりもします。さて、そんな比喩表現、英語の世界ではどのような定義・整理ができるでしょうか。

Metaphors: Fun, Fantasy, or Frustration?

This month's topic is metaphors and metaphorical expressions.

First up, a definition: A metaphor is *a figure of speech that proposes a link or similar characteristics between two things that are not alike. This is to make a point about one of the things.* Metaphors create powerful mental illustrations about something – even if the metaphor is not literally true. The two things won't match literally, but if you see the connection, the metaphor makes a powerfully meaningful image.

Let's try it out:

1. "Time is money." This pairs *time* with *money* ... two very different things. But, the link between them is that *money* is valuable ... and *time* is valuable ... so the metaphor tells us that *time*, like *money*, is valuable. So, I might use this metaphor when someone is 'wasting time' and I think they should use their valuable time more wisely.

2. "Wonderful. This is the icing on the cake."

This metaphor pairs [*this*] with the *icing* that is on the top of a cake. The link between the two items is that the [*this: whatever [this] is*] is like the *icing*. Think about it: cake is always delicious. But when you add sweet icing to the top of that delicious cake ... now the cake is *so* much better. So ... watching a good movie on a Friday evening is great ... like having delicious cake. But, having hot buttery popcorn while you watch the movie ... that is the *icing on the cake*.

Metaphors about EMOTIONS, BEHAVIORS and EXPERIENCES:

3. "He was red hot with anger." This pairs *anger* with the color *red* and the temperature *hot*. This type of metaphor links emotions with colors and personality with physical characteristics ...

red = anger or love / *blue* = sadness / *yellow* = caution / *purple* = royalty

“She felt blue for weeks after her cat died.”

cool = distant or unemotional / *bubbly* = funny or fun to be with / *sparkling* = something lively

“Her bubbly personality makes everyone around her happy.”

4. “These children can’t seem to follow even simple instructions. It’s like we are herding cats.”

This metaphor is implied ... the meaning may be hidden – you have to find it. And it has many links. The metaphor is based on the action of *herding* (*to herd*: leading animals someplace they should go) and then links *the students* with *cats*. We usually herd animals like cows or sheep, which follow easily. But cats; you cannot *lead* cats anywhere ... they cannot be *herded* because they ignore our wishes. So, these children are like cats, and we are trying to herd them.

5. “Sometimes I get lost in the memories I have of my childhood.”

This metaphor is also implied. It links *my memories* with *me getting lost*. The question is: how can I get *lost* in *memories*. Well, the memories I have of my childhood are so deep and complex, and the events took place so long ago, that when I think about those memories ... I get lost – almost like I am inside them.

5. “The wind roared like a lion through the hills and howled like a wolf through the trees.”

Metaphors are important in literature as they can provide a very powerful image of the setting for a story. But, linking the *sound of the wind* with either the *roar of a lion* or the *howl of a wolf* might be a metaphor that has been used too many times by too many authors; this means it is a cliché. If you really want me to feel how strong the wind is, be original ... think up a new metaphor.

For more metaphors: go to <https://www.yourdictionary.com/articles/examples-metaphor>.

Or make up your own metaphors and try them out on family and friends

Next REAL ENGLISH: OCTOBER!

◇残暑なのか猛暑が続いています。部活動が中止されるほどの酷暑でもあります。しかしながら、暑い夏は消費が活性化され、経済的にはむしろよい効果ばかりなののでしょうか。教育的にはどうでしょう。先日のある朝、とある中学校の交通安全指導に立ちました。生徒というよりむしろ教育実習生なのか爽やかなシャツ・ブラウス姿の学生が暑い中、自転車を漕いでいきました。挨拶がとてもしっかりと出来ていましたが、不安を浮かべる表情も見られました。自分もそうだったなあと懐かしさを覚えました。ポロシャツやジャージで颯爽と通り過ぎていく生徒達は宿題ちゃんと終えていたのかなあ。（文責 伴）

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