**Trope** |trōp|noun a figurative or metaphorical use of a word or expression: he used the two-Americas trope to explain how a nation free and democratic at home could act wantonly abroad.

• a significant or recurrent theme; a motif: she uses the Eucharist as a pictorial trope. verb [ no obj. ] create a trope. ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: via Latin from Greek tropos ‘turn, way, trope,’ from trepein ‘to turn.’

**Allegory**: comes from the Greek ἄλλος + ἀγορεύω (to speak something different) is in a certain way similar to metaphor, as it expresses a concept using a different word. Contrary to metaphor, however, the shift of the meaning is often deep and hidden (that is probably why in common talk you will be likely to use a metaphor but not an allegory). In the first book of the *Divina Commedia*, Dante meets three beasts blocking his path: a lion, a lonza (some kind of leopard), and a she-wolf. These are allegories for the sins that Dante thinks can block the path of man towards (religious) liberation and work against ethic: pride, lust and greed.

It is important, here, to consider that in this case you actually have two meanings: the literary meaning and the hidden meaning. Dante is walking through a forest and he finds three beasts that block his way. You can stop there and just take this as the meaning. Or you can understand the image the author is conveying and see that the forest represents life and the beasts are capital sins. On the other hand, in the example of metaphor I wrote before you only have one meaning. Unless you are very naïve (or imaginative) you will never think there is a heart in the center of the town! Finally, figurative refers in general to figures of speech, such as allegories and metaphors, and many others.

**BILDUNGSROMAN** noun a novel dealing with one person's formative years or spiritual education. anaphora |əˈnafərə|noun 1 Grammar the use of a word referring to or replacing a word used earlier in a sentence, to avoid repetition, such as do in I like it and so do they . 2 Rhetoric the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses.

**Parallelism**--similarity of structure in a pair or series of related words, phrases, or clauses. Also called parallel structure.

By convention, items in a series appear in parallel grammatical form: a noun is listed with other nouns, an -ing form with other -ing forms, and so on. Failure to express such items in similar grammatical form is called faulty parallelism.

Eg.s

"When you are right you cannot be too radical; when you are wrong, you cannot be too conservative." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. (Dickens)

I don’t want to live on in my work, I want to live on in my apartment (Woody Allen)

Outside of a dog, books are a man’s best friend. Inside a dog it is too dark to read. Faulty Parallelism Definition: In traditional grammar, a construction in which two or more parts of a sentence are equivalent in meaning but not parallel (or grammatically similar) in form. Faulty parallelism most often occurs with paired constructions and items in a series.

To correct faulty parallelism, match nouns with nouns, verbs with verbs, and phrases or clauses with similarly constructed phrases or clauses Examples and Observations: Physical and mental health and wellness rest on four pillars: regular exercise, healthy diet, social interaction, and getting sufficient sleep.

Corrected sentence: Physical and mental health rest on four pillars: regular exercise, healthy diet, social interaction, and sufficient sleep. Faulty parallelism sometimes occurs because a writer tries to compare items that are not comparable:

NOT PARALLEL: The company offers special college training to help hourly employees move into professional careers like engineering management, software development, service technicians, and sales trainees.

[Notice faulty comparison of occupations--engineering management and software development--to people--service technicians and sales trainees.] To avoid faulty parallelism, make certain that each element in a series is similar in form and structure to all others in the same series.

PARALLEL: The company offers special college training to help hourly employees move into professional careers like engineering management, software development, technical services, and sales. (Gerald J. Alred, Charles T. Brusaw, and Walter E. Oliu, The Business Writer's Companion, 6th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011) Parallelism With Items in a List"

Note that if you have a series of items in [a] list (whether numbered or unnumbered), the items should be parallel--the same part of speech or the same type of phrase or clause. If the first item in the list is a question, for example, all the items should be questions. If the first item is an adverbial phrase, all the items should be adverbial phrases.

Not this

1.We defined our purpose.

2.Who is our audience.

3.What should we do?

4.Discuss findings.

5.Our conclusions.

6.Finally, recommendations.

But this

7.Define purpose.

8.Analyze audience.

9.Determine methodology.

10.Discuss findings. 11.Draw conclusions.

12.Make recommendations. (Joel P. Bowman and Bernadine P. Branchaw, How to Write Proposals That Produce. The Oryx Press, 1992) "[I]n edited prose faulty parallelism may generally be accounted a venial sin--if the writer doesn't notice it and the reader doesn't notice it, how serious can it be?" (Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage. Merriam-Webster, 1994)

Parallelism With Correlative Items

"Correlative items in a sentence are ones indicated by pairs of conjunctions such as either . . . or, not only . . . but also, and whether . . . or. "He has either gone swimming or someone has taken him sailing is faulty parallelism . . . because the second element is not a second predicate sharing the subject

He with the first predicate, but an independent clause with its own subject, someone. The sentence can be made grammatically correct by changing the position of either: Either he has gone swimming or someone has taken him sailing. Now the correlative elements are both independent clauses. Another solution would be He has either gone swimming or been taken sailing. Neither solution produces perfect parallelism--in the first, one verb is intransitive and the other transitive, and in the second, one verb is active and the other passive. However, both solutions are correct, and the parallelism cannot be perfected without changing the meaning. . . . "He has either gone swimming or gone sailing is precisely parallel; gone swimming and gone sailing are grammatically similar and share their relationship with he has." (Edward D. Johnson, The Handbook of Good English, rev. ed. Pocket Books, 1991)

**Major Literary Terms**

**allegory** - device of using character and/or story elements symbolically to represent an abstraction in addition to the literal meaning alliteration - the repetition of sounds, especially initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words (eg "she sells sea shells")

**allusion** - a direct or indirect reference to something which is presumably commonly known, such as an event, book, myth, place, or work of art ambiguity - the multiple meanings, either intentional or unintentional, of a word, phrase, sentence, or passage analogy - a similarity or comparison between two different things or the relationship between them

**antecedent** - the word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun aphorism - a terse statement of known authorship which expresses a general moral principle

**apostrophe** - a figure of speech that directly addresses an absent or imaginary person or a personified abstraction, such as liberty or love atmosphere - the emotional mood created by the entirety of a literary work, established partly by the setting and partly by the author's choice of objects that are described clause - a grammatical unit that contains both a subject and a verb colloquial - the use of slang or informalities in speech or writing conceit - a fanciful expression, usually in the form of an extended metaphor or surprising analogy between seemingly dissimilar objects connotation - the nonliteral, associative meaning of a word; the implied, suggested meaning denotation - the strict, literal, dictionary definition of a word, devoid of any emotion, attitude, or color diction - referring to style, diction refers to the writer's word choices, especially with regard to their correctness, clearness, or effectiveness

**didactic** - from the Greek, literally means "teaching"

**euphemism** - from the Greek for "good speech," a more agreeable or less offensive substitute for a generally unpleasant word or concept extended metaphor - a metaphor developed at great length, occurring frequently in or throughout a work figurative language - writing or speech that is not intended to carry literal meaning and is usually meant to be imaginative and vivid

**figure of speech** - a device used to produce figurative language generic conventions - refers to traditions for each genre genre - the major category into which a literary work fits (eg prose, poetry, and drama)

**homily** - literally "sermon", or any serious talk, speech, or lecture providing moral or spiritual advice hyperbole - a figure of speech using deliberate exaggeration or overstatement imagery - the sensory details or figurative language used to describe, arouse emotion, or represent abstractions infer (inference) - to draw a reasonable conclusion from the information presented

**invective** - an emotionally violent, verbal denunciation or attack using strong, abusive language

**irony** - the contrast between what is stated explicitly and what is really meant

**verbal irony** - words literally state the opposite of speaker's true meaning

**situational irony** - events turn out the opposite of what was expected

**dramatic irony** - facts or events are unknown to a character but known to the reader or audience or other characters in work

**loose sentence** - a type of sentence in which the main idea comes first, followed by dependent grammatical units metaphor - a figure of speech using implied comparison of seemingly unlike things or the substitution of one for the other, suggesting some similarity

**metonomy** - from the Greek "changed label", the name of one object is substituted for that of another closely associated with it (eg "the White House" for the President)