

Language Devices and Techniques – Basic Multiple-Choice Worksheet

English

Level 2 Reading

Basic multiple choice · 30 questions · 30 marks

Remember

Language devices (also called language features, techniques or devices) are choices about *words* that shape how the reader thinks or feels. The exam expects you to know at least these:

- **Rhetorical question** – a question that needs no answer
- **Direct address** – 'you', 'your'
- **Emotive language** – words chosen to stir feelings
- **Statistics / facts** – numbers and checkable claims
- **Rule of three** – three items for rhythm
- **Alliteration** – repeated first sounds
- **Hyperbole** – deliberate exaggeration
- **Imperative** – a command
- **Repetition** – the same word/phrase again for emphasis
- **Listing** – several items in a row to build a picture or show scale
- **Simile** – compares using 'like' or 'as'
- **Metaphor** – says one thing *is* another
- **Personification** – gives a thing human qualities
- **Expert opinion / quotation** – a named authority
- **Anecdote / personal experience** – a short real-life story; first person
- **Colloquial / informal language** – chatty, slang
- **Formal language** – official, impersonal
- **Exclamation** – shows strong feeling
- **Contrast** – then vs now, us vs them
- **Tone** – humorous, angry, sarcastic, reassuring

Layout features (headings, bullet points, bold) are not language devices. The mark scheme rejects them for language questions.

Part 1 – Name the device (20 marks)

For each quotation, choose the language device being used.

1. "Isn't it time we stopped ignoring the problem?"
 - ☐ A rhetorical question
 - ☐ B imperative
 - ☐ C simile
 - ☐ D statistic
2. "You know how it feels to be kept waiting."
 - ☐ A exclamation
 - ☐ B direct address
 - ☐ C metaphor
 - ☐ D listing
3. "The abandoned puppies shivered in the freezing rain."
 - ☐ A formal language
 - ☐ B statistic
 - ☐ C emotive language
 - ☐ D rhetorical question
4. "Over 6,000 residents signed the petition in one week."
 - ☐ A hyperbole
 - ☐ B statistic / fact

- ☐ **C** anecdote ☐ **D** personification
5. "The new centre is bigger, brighter and better."
☐ **A** rule of three ☐ **B** simile
☐ **C** expert opinion ☐ **D** first person
6. "Brookford's brilliant bakers bring the best bread."
☐ **A** metaphor ☐ **B** alliteration
☐ **C** repetition ☐ **D** imperative
7. "I have told you a million times."
☐ **A** statistic ☐ **B** hyperbole
☐ **C** formal language ☐ **D** direct address
8. "Sign up today. Don't miss out."
☐ **A** rhetorical question ☐ **B** anecdote
☐ **C** imperative ☐ **D** simile
9. "The queue moved like treacle."
☐ **A** simile ☐ **B** metaphor
☐ **C** alliteration ☐ **D** contrast
10. "The town centre is a ghost town after six o'clock."
☐ **A** simile ☐ **B** metaphor
☐ **C** personification ☐ **D** statistic
11. "The old bridge groaned under the weight of the lorries."
☐ **A** personification ☐ **B** hyperbole
☐ **C** listing ☐ **D** first person
12. "We will not give up. We will not go quietly. We will not be ignored."
☐ **A** alliteration ☐ **B** repetition
☐ **C** expert opinion ☐ **D** simile
13. "Dr Amina Shah, a sleep researcher, says teenagers need nine hours a night."
☐ **A** anecdote ☐ **B** expert opinion
☐ **C** hyperbole ☐ **D** colloquial language
14. "Last winter my neighbour waited four hours for an ambulance."
☐ **A** anecdote ☐ **B** statistic
☐ **C** rule of three ☐ **D** metaphor
15. "It's a total rip-off, mate – don't bother."
☐ **A** formal language ☐ **B** colloquial / informal language
☐ **C** personification ☐ **D** expert opinion
16. "Residents are advised that the consultation period concludes on 30 April."
☐ **A** colloquial language ☐ **B** formal language
☐ **C** exclamation ☐ **D** simile
17. "Ten years ago this street was full of shops. Today half of them are boarded up."
☐ **A** contrast ☐ **B** repetition
☐ **C** alliteration ☐ **D** imperative

18. "Bring your boots, your waterproofs, your gloves, your hat and your sense of humour."

- ☐ A listing
- ☐ B rhetorical question
- ☐ C metaphor
- ☐ D statistic

19. "What a fantastic result!"

- ☐ A exclamation
- ☐ B rhetorical question
- ☐ C simile
- ☐ D formal language

20. "I've worked here for twenty years, and I've never seen it this bad."

- ☐ A expert opinion
- ☐ B first person / personal experience
- ☐ C hyperbole
- ☐ D listing

Part 2 – Choose the effect (10 marks)

These questions ask *why* a writer used a device – the second half of an exam answer.

21. A charity leaflet says: 'Every night, 300 children in this city go to bed hungry.' Why has the writer used a statistic here?

- ☐ A To make the reader laugh
- ☐ B To make the problem sound real, large and measurable
- ☐ C To describe what the children look like
- ☐ D To give an instruction

22. An advert says: 'You deserve a break.' The effect of the direct address is:

- ☐ A it makes the reader feel the message is personal to them
- ☐ B it gives factual information
- ☐ C it makes the advert sound formal
- ☐ D it explains how to book

23. A council notice uses formal language. The most likely reason is:

- ☐ A to entertain the reader
- ☐ B to sound official, clear and authoritative
- ☐ C to make the reader feel emotional
- ☐ D to be funny

24. A campaign poster repeats 'Not one more' three times. The effect is:

- ☐ A to hammer the message home so it is remembered
- ☐ B to give three different facts
- ☐ C to describe a place
- ☐ D to sound informal

25. A travel article calls a beach 'a slice of paradise'. This metaphor makes the beach seem:

- ☐ A dangerous
- ☐ B ordinary
- ☐ C perfect and desirable
- ☐ D crowded

26. A blog uses the phrase 'a nightmare journey'. The word 'nightmare' is:

- ☐ A a statistic
- ☐ B emotive language (exaggerating how bad it was)
- ☐ C a simile

- ☐ **D** an imperative

27. A leaflet ends with 'Call us today.' Why end with an imperative?

- ☐ **A** To describe the company's history
- ☐ **B** To tell the reader exactly what to do next
- ☐ **C** To ask the reader a question
- ☐ **D** To give a statistic

28. An article quotes a doctor. The main purpose is:

- ☐ **A** to add humour
- ☐ **B** to make the argument sound trustworthy and well researched
- ☐ **C** to describe the doctor
- ☐ **D** to make the text longer

29. A writer describes a busy market with a list of sounds and smells. The effect of the listing is:

- ☐ **A** to make the reader feel they are there / to build a vivid picture
- ☐ **B** to give the market's opening times
- ☐ **C** to persuade the reader to complain
- ☐ **D** to sound formal

30. Which of these is a LANGUAGE feature, not a layout feature?

- ☐ **A** A subheading
- ☐ **B** A bullet point
- ☐ **C** A rhetorical question
- ☐ **D** A table

Language Devices and Techniques – Basic Multiple-Choice Worksheet – Answers

Level 2 Reading · mark-scheme style

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Part 1

1 A 2 B 3 C 4 B 5 A 6 B 7 B 8 C 9 A 10 B 11 A 12 B 13 B 14 A 15 B 16 B 17 A 18 A 19 A
20 B

Part 2

21 B 22 A 23 B 24 A 25 C 26 B 27 B 28 B 29 A 30 C

Where Level 2 students lose marks on this topic

- Confusing simile and metaphor: a simile uses 'like' or 'as'; a metaphor says it *is* the thing.
- Calling every strong word 'emotive'. Ask whether the word is chosen to make the reader *feel* something.
- Offering a layout feature (bold, bullet points, heading) when asked for a language feature.