

What is Hyperbole and Understatement?

Worksheet

Hyperbole exaggerates reality for emphasis or humor; understatement (meiosis) minimizes for irony or modesty. Together, they show how distorting truth creates rhetorical effect and emotional resonance.

Questions

1. 'I've told you a thousand times' is...
 - A) literal truth
 - B) hyperbole
 - C) metaphor
 - D) pun
2. 'It's just a scratch' (about a large wound) is...
 - A) hyperbole
 - B) understatement
 - C) irony
 - D) simile
3. Opposite of hyperbole?
 - A) simile
 - B) metaphor
 - C) understatement
 - D) alliteration
4. Why use understatement?
 - A) sound more formal
 - B) avoid exaggeration
 - C) seem modest or ironic
 - D) improve grammar
5. 'I'm so hungry I could eat a horse' — explain the hyperbole.
6. 'It's just a scratch' — why is this understatement?
7. Same injury, two opposite techniques: hyperbole vs. understatement.
8. Define: What is hyperbole?
9. Define: What is understatement?
10. Define: Example of hyperbole?

Answer Key

1. B) hyperbole — Exaggerating the number of times shows hyperbole.
2. B) understatement — Minimizing a large wound as 'just a scratch' is understatement.
3. C) understatement — Understatement is opposite to hyperbole — minimization vs. exaggeration.
4. C) seem modest or ironic — Understatement creates modesty, irony, or politeness through deliberate minimization.
5. The speaker is hungry, but not actually able to eat a horse The exaggeration emphasizes extreme hunger for effect This is hyperbole — exaggerating for rhetorical power
6. The speaker has a large, visible wound They minimize it by calling it 'just a scratch' This understatement creates humor or shows bravery
7. Hyperbole: 'I'm dying! This could cost me my arm!' Understatement: 'It's just a little cut, nothing serious' Both distort truth; one exaggerates, one minimizes
8. Exaggeration for emphasis, effect, humor, or dramatic impact.
9. Minimization for emphasis, irony, modesty, or politeness.
10. 'I'm dying of hunger' or 'I've said it a million times'.

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.