

APSU Writing Center

Alliteration, Assonance, & Consonance

Alliteration

A literary device that uses the same or similar **consonant sounds**, generally at the beginning of words or stressed syllables. It is used in poetry, music, speeches, tongue twisters, and storytelling, particularly children's stories

Alliteration Examples:

- She sells seashells by the seashore - (repetition of the /s/ sound)
- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers - (repetition of the /p/ sound)
- Cherry cookies in the kitchen - (repetition of the /c/ and /k/ sounds)
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Krispy Kreme
- Quick question

Assonance

A figure of speech in which the same **vowel sounds** repeat within a group of words. Assonance focuses on sounds, not letters. The repeated vowel sound may appear anywhere in the words: beginning, middle, end, stressed, or unstressed syllables.

Assonance Examples:

- Chips and dips (repetition of the /i/ vowel sound)
- Surf and turf (repetition of the /u/ sound)
- Go slow over the road (repetition of the short /o/ sound)
- Do good have good (Repetition of the /oo/ sound)
- No pain, no gain (Repetition of the /ai/ ound)
- She eats the sweet treats (Repetition of the /ee/ sound)
- It's true. I do like you! (repetition of the /oo/ or /ue/ sound)

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Consonance

A figure of speech in which the same consonant sound repeats within a group of words. Consonants include all letters except A, E, I, O, and U.

Consonance Examples:

- **Touch** the **beach** with a **peach** - (repetition of the /ch/ consonant sound)
- **All's well** that ends OK - play by William Shakespeare. (repetition of the /l/ consonant sound)
- **Dogs** are **frogs** living in **sprogs** (repetition of the soft /g/ and /s/ consonant sounds)
- To sit in **solemn** **silence** in a **dull**, dark **dock** - (repetition of the /s/, /l/, and /d/ consonant sounds)

Quick Guide

- **Alliteration:** Repetition of consonant or vowel sounds at the beginning of words.
- **Assonance:** Repetition of vowel sounds only anywhere in the words.
- **Consonance:** Repetition of consonant sounds only anywhere in the words.



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References

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