

Alliteration

APSU Writing Center Handout

Alliteration is 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)

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 consonants 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.

References

Kramer, L. (2021). *All about alliteration*. Grammarly.

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/alliteration/>

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