

ADLC

Alberta Distance
Learning Centre

English Language Arts 30-1

Glossary



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English Language Arts 30-1 Glossary

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A

active reading	Active reading is being engaged with a text—reflecting on thought-provoking ideas, thinking about methods the author is using to affect the reader, and seeking meaning in the text.
active viewing	Active viewing means being engaged with a visual text—reflecting on thought-provoking ideas, thinking about methods the text creator is using to affect the viewer and seeking meaning in the text.
adage	An adage is a short saying that has been around a long time and expresses a truth or wisdom. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Look before you leap.”• “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.”• “There’s no smoke without fire.”
additive change	A character begins at a certain point and improves. For example, a character might improve his or her skills as an athlete throughout the course of the text, or a character’s financial status might improve as he or she gains more wealth.
alliteration	Alliteration is the occurrence of the same consonant sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. Every tongue twister has alliteration. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.• Names have alliteration: Mickey Mouse, Best Buy, and Karen's Cookies.• Alliteration is based on sound: Phil went to Phoenix to find his father. (5 "f" sounds)• This is not alliteration because the vowel sound is repeating: "Amber, Allen's aunt, is angry."
allusion	An allusion is a reference to a well-known person, place, literary text, or character. It’s mentioned in passing. It’s assumed that the audience will be familiar with the famous person or thing. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He’s wearing a Don Cherry suit. (reference to a famous person)• My neighbour’s yard is a Garden of Eden. (reference to the Bible)• To test or not to test; that is the question.” (reference to famous line in Shakespeare’s <i>Hamlet</i>)
alternatives	Alternatives are the answer options in a multiple-choice questions (usually a, b, c, and d).
anecdote	A short story or account of an event (real or fictional) that is used to amuse or inform an audience.
angle of destiny	This is a shot taken from high above a scene or character and at an angle, such as from the top corner of a room.

angles	Angles are carefully created in photographs, drawings, graphic novels, comics, paintings, designs, TV shows, and films. They are also called “shot angles” or “shot types.” They show the point of view or position where the artist or camera is placed to create a picture or take a shot
annotated bibliography	An annotated bibliography is much like a regular bibliography. It is an alphabetical list of sources discovered when researching a topic. It also includes a short paragraph below each entry in the bibliography that quickly summarizes the key ideas in the source and discusses why each source was chosen or evaluates the source’s strengths and weaknesses.
antagonist	This is either a character or force (nature, crashing stock market, cancer, etc.) that gets in the way of the protagonist achieving his or her goal or somehow creates conflict in the protagonist’s life.
antecedent event	This is an event that occurred before the main storyline began. It is often shared with the audience through flashback or as background information (often at the beginning of a story). As an example, imagine a story about a character whose child becomes gravely ill, and the mother must rush her to the hospital, but it’s obvious the mother is anxious about having to take the highway to get to the hospital. If the audience suddenly learns in a flashback that the character had gotten into a car accident years ago and is now afraid to drive on the highway, it helps us understand the character’s behaviour more deeply. Antecedent events can provide helpful background in a story, though they do not appear in every story.
aphorism	A short saying or statement that is wise, witty, true, and memorable. It isn’t modified over time. Example: Carpe diem. (“Seize the day.”)
apostrophe	An apostrophe is a punctuation mark, but it also is a figure of speech where the writer or speaker addresses an inanimate object or an absent or dead person. Whatever is addressed can’t respond. The address often includes “O!”
ardently	passionately
artistic images	Artistic images are visual images created for personal enjoyment or artistic expression.
aside	An aside is a character’s short comment that is not heard by all characters.
assonance	Assonance occurs when nearby words have the same vowel sound. The similar sound is not necessarily at the beginning of the words. Read the two sentences below aloud and listen to the repeating vowel sound. Notice that spelling doesn’t matter—assonance is a sound device. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three people at the beach turned beet red. (“e” sound repeats) • I say they played a great game today. (“a” sound repeats)

B

back lighting	This is lighting the subject in a scene from behind.
background	The background is the section of an image that tends to look the furthest away from the viewer. It appears at the top (or back) of an image. This is not usually the focal point of an image, but does tend to convey important information about context or mood. However, if the background is larger and more in-focus than the rest of the image, it is likely the focal point and therefore the most important.
bird's-eye angle	These are shots that are filmed either from the ground looking straight up at the subject (worm's eye), or from the air looking directly down at the subject (bird's eye).
block quote	A long quotation (four or more typed lines) from a source. Place block quotes on a separate line from the rest of the text and do not include quotation marks. Do include source information to give credit to the source of the block quotation.
blocking	Blocking is a type of stage direction that indicates where and how the actor should move on the stage.
blue collar	This term is used to refer people who work in manual labour jobs and typically work with their hands. The term includes both skilled and unskilled workers. Such labourers often wear more durable blue shirts, hence the term "blue collar."

C

cacophony	Unpleasant, harsh sounds. Sometimes writers and speakers use discordant sounds to create a mood. Words with these letters tend to be unmusical: b, d, g, j, k, p, q, t, v, z The opposite is "euphony", which are pleasant and musical sounds. Words with these sounds tend to be musical and pleasant sounding: c, h, l, m, n, r, s, w
camera movement	Directors make key decisions around how the camera moves in relation to what's being filmed. For example, the camera might follow a character running through a dark forest, making the viewer feel the character's terror as she races through her surroundings. Cameras can move in a variety of ways in order to convey certain information or emotion in a scene of a film. Each type of camera movement has a specific name.
canted angle	Also known as the "Dutch Angle," this is when the camera is not held level (the subject in the frame is tilted or crooked). This type of shot is often used to show that something is eerie or "not right." This shot creates tension or suspense.
caricature	A caricature is a humorous drawing or description of a person. The person's unique physical features or characteristics are either exaggerated or simplified, usually for comic purposes.

cast	The cast is the group of actors in a play or movie, so the act of casting would be the process of choosing the actors who will make up the cast.
cast of characters	Cast of Characters (or Dramatis Personae): This page lists characters and sometimes information about each role or the relationship to other characters (e.g., mother of, wife of, queen of), as well as the names of the actors playing those roles.
character	A person, animal, thing, creature, or being found in a story. The action centres around the character(s). Character labels include: protagonist, antagonist, major, minor, round, flat, dynamic, static, stereotyped.
characterization	The process of using a variety of techniques to reveal the personality of a character.
cinematic techniques	Cinematic techniques are tools used in movie making to influence the audience's understanding of the context, the characters, and the plot of the film.
citing	Citing a source means giving credit to the author and text from which information or words were taken for use in one's own work. Giving credit to sources ensures one avoids plagiarism (passing off other's ideas or words as one's own).
climax	The highest point of intensity in a story, and typically a turning point in the story. This is the moment the whole story has been leading up to.
clincher	The last sentence or two of a concluding paragraph in a piece of writing. The clincher is designed to leave the reader thinking about the topic by sharing something creative, shocking, interesting, or memorable with the audience.
close-up shot	Close-ups are used to give the viewer intimate details about the subject. These are shots that zoom in and frame the subject(s) closely.
colour and contrast	The colours used in an image often communicate mood (blue can convey a sense of calm, for example) or act as a symbol to represent a larger idea (white often represents peace or purity, for example). Contrast (of light and dark) also can be used to convey mood (a lit up home against a dark snowy sky could convey a cozy mood), or contrast can be used to emphasize/draw attention to the subject or important details in an image.
comma splice	A comma splice is yet another common sentence error. It occurs when two or more complete sentences run together with only a comma in between. Below is an example of a comma splice error and four ways to correct this error.


<p>comma splice error</p>	<p>A comma splice is yet another common sentence error. It occurs when two or more complete sentences run together with only a comma in between. Below is an example of a comma splice error and four ways to correct this error.</p> <p>Comma Splice Error: <i>A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day, the darkness finally forced them inside.</i></p> <p>Method #1: Place a period (or question mark or exclamation point) to separate the clauses into two separate sentences.</p> <p>Correct: A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day. The darkness finally forced them inside.</p> <p>Method #2: Place a semicolon between the clauses to separate them.</p> <p>Correct: A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day; the darkness finally forced them inside.</p> <p>Method #3: Use a coordinating conjunction plus a comma to separate the sentences. Remember the acronym FANBOYS to help you recall the coordinating conjunctions. Note: Not all coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) make sense in every sentence. Choose the one that makes the most sense.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For • And • Nor • But • Or • Yet • So <p>Correct: A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day, and only the darkness finally forced them inside.</p> <p>Method #4: Make one of the sentences into a fragment that depends upon the other to make it complete. You can do this by just removing some words, or adding a subordinating conjunction. Here are a few commonly used subordinating conjunctions. Remember the acronym “on a white bus”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only if • Now that • Although • While, when, whenever • If • Though • Even though • Because, before • Until, unless • Since <p>Correct: A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day until the darkness finally forced them inside.</p>
<p>commercial images</p>	<p>Commercial images are visual images created for monetary gain or business purposes.</p>


composition	Composition refers to the way an image is organized. The way an image is laid out affects where the viewer's eye is directed. If done well, composition of an image helps call attention to the focal points and balances the image in such a way that it is pleasing to the eye, if that is the text creator's intent.
conclusion	The final paragraph or section of a piece of writing. The conclusion typically wraps up the piece of writing by sharing final thoughts with the audience, summarizing ideas discussed earlier, and/or providing the audience with an interesting final thought.
conflict	<p>This is any type of problem, disagreement, or clash within a text. Most texts use conflict to draw the audience in and create interest or suspense. The audience wants to know how the conflict will be resolved.</p> <p>Two major types of conflicts: internal conflicts and external conflicts.</p> <p>Conflicts are also categorized as three major types: person vs. person, person vs. self, person vs. environment</p>
connotation	<p>Connotation is the extra meaning associated with words. For example, you can consult a dictionary to find the meaning of a word such as <i>small</i>. A dictionary tells you the denotative meaning of that word is <i>not large</i>. You can find go to a thesaurus and find synonyms: <i>little, compact, tiny, mini, stunted, short, and petite</i>. This list of words makes it easy to see that a word can have a secondary emotional feeling or connotative meaning, so we have to select our words carefully.</p> <p>Referring to someone as <i>stunted</i> is not the same as referring to someone as <i>petite</i>. One has a favorable connotation and the other does not. The word <i>small</i> is fairly neutral, straddling the line between flattering and unflattering. <i>Small</i> seems more factual and less likely to arouse emotions.</p> <p>If you see the word "connotes" on the diploma exam, it is referring to the feelings and ideas that are being conveyed.</p>
consonance	<p>Consonance occurs when nearby words have the consonant sound. The similar sounds are not always at the beginning of the words. If the repetitive sounds are at the beginning of the nearby words, that's alliteration. Read the two sentences below aloud and listen to the repeating consonant sound. Notice that spelling doesn't matter—consonance is a sound device.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Fish" by Elizabeth Bishop: "They shifted a little, but not / to return my stare. / --It was more like the tipping / of an object toward the light." ("t" sound repeats) • <i>West Moon</i> by Al Pittman: "...darkness comes in all seasons as sudden as sudden death, comes coasting unannounced from its hideaway over the hills, sweeps silently down upon the seaside settlement of St. Kevin's, and covers the quicksilver, looking-glass sea as like a shroud thrown from the sky to fall on the face of the funeral earth."
context	<p>Context is any factor (who, what, where, when, and why) that influences the way a reader interprets a text or any factor that influences the way a text is created.</p> <p>You could see a dozen questions on the diploma exam with the word "context" in it. The question is asking for you to analyze the situation and consider W, W, W, W, and W when you answer the question. In other words, the answer is specific to the text you read.</p>

contrast	Contrast is used in both visual and written texts to call attention to a subject or create interest. Contrast simply means using opposites next to one another—dark and light, smooth and rough, naive and worldly, etc. Expect to see "contrast" on Part B of the diploma exam. Remember to focus on differences, not similarities.
costume	Costumes are the clothes that characters wear in a play or film. They help to establish the characters' personalities and can sometimes convey important information about the character's occupation, state of mind, social status, etc.
crew	These are the workers behind the scenes of a film or play production who help. The crew members have many different types of jobs such as stagehands who set the stage and place the props, lighting and sound technicians, etc.
cut	A cut is an instant change from one scene to another, or from one view of a scene to another.
cynicism	You may see this word on Part B of the Diploma Exam. Cynicism is the inclination to believe that people are insincere or self-serving. Some people are called "cynical" or "cynics". They are doubtful, distrusting, suspicious and about people and their actions.

D

de-opaqué	made transparent
deep focus	Deep focus creates a scene where all parts of the shot are in focus.
denouement	This is typically the very end of a story. It's the final outcome of a story or clarification about any final details in the story. It's sometimes referred to as the "resolution."
diagonal line	Diagonal lines are at an angle and can convey a sense of movement, create a sense of depth in the image, add a sense of action, or simply just draw the viewer's eye through the image.
dialogue	Dialogue (characters' lines) appears after a character's name (which is usually in CAPITAL LETTERS) and is not placed in quotation marks.
diction	Refers to the words writers and speakers choose. We all make word choices every day. For example, many of us don't swear in front of our grandma. To discuss "diction" (word choices), specific examples of the author's deliberate word choices must be given. You may find that diction involves figurative language, repetition, jargon, formal language, informal language, etc. On the diploma exam, you may encounter an adjective in front of this word, such as "qualifying diction". You would understand "qualifying diction", if you knew the definition of "qualifying" and the definition of "diction."
diegetic sound	This is sound within a film that arises naturally from the action of the film. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You hear characters speak to each other (dialogue). • A door slams.

direct presentation	<p>Direct presentation is one way a character's personality is revealed. There is no guessing involved in direct presentation.</p> <p>The audience knows exactly what characters are like because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the narrator tells us directly what the characters are like or • the characters tells us about themselves
directing words	<p>Directing words are bold words and phrases in a multiple-choice question. If you see bolded words in a multiple-choice question, you know it is an evaluation question.</p>
director	<p>A film director supervises (directs) the making of the film and makes key decisions about all the major tasks of filmmaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hiring a cast (actors to play the roles) • overseeing set and wardrobe design • overseeing lighting and sound decisions • overseeing rehearsals
discordant	<p>You may see this word on the Diploma Exam.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not in agreement; not in harmony. 2. Also describes an unpleasant sound. See "cacophony."
dissolve	<p>A dissolve is when the end of one shot gradually disappears or goes out of focus as the beginning of the next shot gradually appears and takes over as the main focus of the shot. Dissolves are often used to establish a change in setting or a lapse in time; this makes them ideal for use as a transition for flashbacks.</p>
distractors	<p>Distractors are the incorrect alternatives (answer options) in a multiple-choice question.</p>
dramatic irony	<p>Dramatic irony involves a scene in which the audience knows information that the characters do not.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person tells another she'll help him study tonight after previously arranging a trip out of town. (The audience knows the truth but the character does not.)
dynamic character	<p>Characters who experience <i>meaningful change</i>, for better or worse, during the course of the story are considered dynamic. The protagonist is almost always dynamic, particularly in a novel or a film.</p>
	
epilogue	<p>Epilogue (sometimes called an "Afterward") is a conclusion to the play with information about the end of the story or perhaps what happens to characters in the future.</p>
epiphany	<p>An epiphany is a sudden important realization or understanding.</p>
essential questions	<p>An essential question is an important question. Its answer is complex, and it deepens as a result of learning and life experiences.</p>

evaluation questions	<p>Evaluation questions on the Diploma Exam will be indicated by key words in bold in the question stem. More than one (or even all) of the alternatives may seem correct. However, it is the word or phrase in bold in the question stem that will lead you to the correct answer.</p> <p>When you see an evaluation question, always look at the information provided to you in the question stem and go back to the passage before choosing an answer.</p>
example	<p>In English classes, teachers tell students to give examples. We are asking you to give concrete and specific instances of something. We might ask you to give examples of figures of speech found in a poem. You might quote a simile and two metaphors as your specific instances. By giving more than one example, you have a better chance of proving that you understand what figures of speech are.</p> <p>Perhaps you do a character analysis and arrive at the conclusion that a character is selfless. You would backup your opinion with specific and concrete evidence (examples) of what the character did to help others.</p>
exposition	<p>This is usually toward the beginning of a story. It is the part of a story where characters are introduced, mood and setting are established, and sometimes background information or antecedent events are shared.</p>
external conflict	<p>An external conflict is a conflict between the character and someone or something else.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • person vs. person: The protagonist must overcome the bullying of another person. • person vs. environment: The protagonist must fight against a storm that threatens his livelihood. • person vs. supernatural: The protagonist struggles against a ghost haunting his home.
extreme long shot	<p>The subject is filmed from very far away and may barely be visible.</p> <p>Extreme long shots can be used to provide a sense of scale or establish a scene.</p> <p>Example: shot of a large battlefield or a city skyline. The point is to provide a general impression, not details.</p>
	
fade out	<p>This is a technique used at the ending of a scene by fading the last part or focus of the scene to black or white (the scene itself fades away to be replaced by black or white entirely).</p>
falling action	<p>This usually occurs after the climax of a story. It's tying up the loose ends of the story after the climax and leading toward the end.</p>

fiction	<p>A literary work that has been created by an author's imagination. Short stories and novels are fiction. In both, authors will use factual information to make the narrative seem realistic, but they will have made-up events and people.</p> <p>Non-fiction is factual and true. The information that is presented is not created or invented.</p>
figurative language	<p>Figurative language includes figures of speech that text creators use to enhance their work to make it more creative, dramatic, or more memorable. Generally, figurative language is the opposite of literal language (language that says exactly what the dictionary says it is; there's no embellishment).</p> <p>Common examples: metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia, personification, and hyperbole.</p>
film negative	<p>A film negative is created after a camera film strip is processed in a lab. We don't see film negatives too often anymore, as most cameras now use digital technology that allows us to upload and share pictures easily.</p>
first-person point of view	<p>This type of point of view describes a character inside the story telling the story. You will see pronouns such "I", "me", and "we," not just in dialogue, but in all parts of the story.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I woke up that morning with a feeling in my gut that today was not going to be a good day.
first-person pronouns	<p>First-person pronouns are used when a person wants to refer to himself or herself alone or refer to himself or herself within a group of people. Informal texts are likely to use first-person pronouns. Note: First-person pronouns are to be avoided in critical responses.</p> <p>Singular: I, me, my, mine, etc.</p> <p>Plural: we, our, ours, us, etc.</p>
flat angle	<p>The camera is at eye level with the subject in the shot.</p>
flat character	<p>These characters are one-dimensional and uncomplicated. They are usually in a story just to serve a single purpose and are considered minor characters. They usually have one dominant personality trait.</p>
focal point	<p>Focal points are the objects or areas in an image that are the most important. These are the things the text creator wants the viewer to focus on because they relate to the image's main idea or theme.</p>
focus	<p>Focus is a technique used to call attention to certain focal points or big ideas in a visual. Other parts of the visual are blurry, so that the viewer's eye is drawn to the area in focus. Focus helps the viewer determine the subject of the visual and often the visual's theme.</p>
foil character	<p>A foil character is the opposite (in some way) of a main character in the story. The foil is in the story to provide some contrast to the main character.</p>

foreground	Images can generally be divided up into three sections—foreground, mid-ground, and background. The foreground, or front of the image (the area at the bottom of the image that seems closest to the viewer) is often the focal point of an image, but not always. If the foreground seems larger and more in focus than the rest of the image, you can assume it is the focal point and therefore the most important.
framing	Framing is a technique used in the composition (organization) of a visual to call attention to certain focal points or themes. The frame can be subtle (using the trunks of trees as a frame, for example) or more obvious (a character's face is framed in a window). Framing can be used to make the visual more pleasing to the eye, but it can also be used to communicate certain ideas. For example, a character might be internally framed in a window to communicate his or her feeling of isolation or confinement, or it may be used to show how cozy and protected the person is. A photograph of hikers framed by jagged snow-capped mountains might be used to show the hikers are trapped by the mountains, or it may simply highlight the fact that they are the subject of the image. Use other clues in a visual to help determine why the framing technique has been used.
freeze frame	A freeze frame is when a scene is ended by giving the appearance of stopping the film and "freezing" or holding the image for a few seconds.

G

genre	<p>A genre is a category of text, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays • fantasy • science fiction • romance • crime drama • films • novels • short stories • comics • anime
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H


hand-held shot	Hand-held shots are shaky but give a sense of a unique view of events that the camera-holders have as they moves through their environment.
high-angle shot	The camera is angled down from above the subject.
high-key lighting	This is bright, even lighting with few shadows and little contrast between dark and light areas in a scene.

hook	This is the beginning of an introduction where the writer tries to get the attention of the reader by saying something creative, shocking, or interesting.
horizontal lines	Horizontal lines (lines that run straight across left to right, like the horizon), can give the impression of stability, restfulness, permanency, or timelessness. Sometimes they are simply used to anchor a subject.
hyperbole	Hyperbole is a type of figurative language. It is the use of exaggeration (saying more than is the case; overstatement) to create humour or emphasize an idea within a text. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I don't see Justin Bieber in concert, <i>I'll just die!</i> • I got an F on my report card; my parents are going to <i>ground me for life!</i>
hypocrisy	Pretending to have high moral standards or beliefs; the person's behaviour doesn't match what the person claims. A hypocrite says one thing and does the opposite; the person isn't genuine or sincere.

I

iambic pentametre	Shakespeare wrote sonnets and plays in iambic pentametre. Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 syllables in each line; groups of 2 syllables for 5 "feet" (pent) • Each foot has a pair of alternating unstressed and stressed syllables (each foot is an iamb). • The rhythm in each line sounds like this: <i>ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM</i> <p>"Scansion" is the act of scanning a line to determine if it has a regular metre (rhythm and beat).</p>
idiom	Idioms are informal, colloquial, conversational expressions that cannot be taken literally. Looking up the definition of each word does not help a person understand the phrase. That's why idiom dictionaries have been made for various languages. For example, you can buy a book that explains English idioms and another book that explains French idioms. Examples of English idioms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He opened up a can of worms. • It's raining cats and dogs. • She's under the weather. • Don't have a cow.
idiosyncrasy	You may see this word on the Diploma Exam. If someone is idiosyncratic, the person has a quirk, a distinctive feature, or peculiar habit. Example: If I always eat dessert before my meal or always wear a blue shirt on Mondays, I'm doing things that other people would consider to be out of the ordinary; I'm fairly unique. I have idiosyncrasies.

imagery	<p>Imagery is a type of figurative language. It is description that appeals to any of the five senses: smell, touch, taste, touch, or sound.</p> <p>Examples of imagery in bold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tractor's paint glistened fiery red in the shining hot sun as the motor growled. The rumbling engine echoed across the yard with the sharp tang of diesel fumes spreading through the air.
impeccable	flawless, perfect
indirect presentation	<p>Character traits and personalities are revealed to the reader indirectly. (With direction presentation, the reader is told that characters are selfish, happy-go-lucky, etc.)</p> <p>You have to <i>read between the lines</i> and <i>look for clues</i> about a character based upon such things as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the character does or says • the character's appearance • what other characters say about him or her • how others behave around him or her
initial incident	This is the first plot event that introduces the main conflict of the story and drives the story forward (by keeping the reader interested).
integrity	Integrity means demonstrating strong morals, especially honesty.
internal conflict	<p>An internal conflict is a conflict inside a character's own mind or heart. It's also referred to as a person vs. self conflict.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps a character believes he is not intelligent enough to solve a problem or to outsmart a villain. Perhaps he was raised to act honourably at all times but now struggles with his own values.
internal framing	<p>This is a "frame within a frame" technique. The camera films a scene that naturally frames the subject within it, perhaps with a door or window.</p> <p>Internal framing can act as symbolism to represent a character is confined, protected, isolated, or trapped.</p>
introduction	The first paragraph of an essay or the beginning section of a piece of writing. The introduction typically introduces the topic that the piece of writing will discuss and provides any information that the reader will need to know to understand the rest of the text.

irony	<p>Irony is a type of figurative language that involves a discrepancy. There are three types of irony:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal Irony: When someone says one thing but means the opposite. Example: "This is great!" (I say this after spilling coffee on my desk.) If a person uses verbal irony to make fun of or hurt someone, that is a special kind of verbal irony called sarcasm. Example: "Well...you sure are graceful!" (Kelly says this to someone who tripped.) • Dramatic Irony: When readers or viewers know something the character does not. Example: You get a thick brochure in the mail from a group that's trying to prevent deforestation. (You realize that they killed trees to send you a brochure encouraging you to not kill trees.) • Situational Irony: When the opposite of what the characters and readers expect to happen actually occurs. You are surprised! Example: The fire station burns down! (Firemen teach us how to prevent and put out fires.)
	
jargon	<p>Special words or expressions used by certain groups or professions. Jargon is used by the military, technology, figure skating fans, accountants, psychologists, etc. Using jargon can make it difficult for outsiders to understand the message.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karin executed her double axel, a lovely spiral, and a flying camel spin, but fell on her triple loop, double toe combination." (figure skating jargon)
jump cuts	<p>This cut involves two camera shots in sequence that are taken from slightly different camera angles.</p> <p>A jump cut gives the impression of jumping forward in time, which can create a sensation of unreality, nervousness, or indecision.</p>
juxtaposition	<p>Juxtaposition is the use of contrast to call attention to an important trait or idea in a text.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an image, you might see the juxtaposition of light and dark colors to call attention to certain points of an image. • In a written text, you might see two characters who are very clearly opposites of one another. What traits in each character are more obvious because of the juxtaposition?

K

key

The correct answer in a multiple-choice question is called the key.

L

lambent

softly bright (like the moon)

life coach

A person who advises individuals on life and career choices.

lighting

Lighting is a technique commonly used in visual texts (photographs, advertisements, paintings, etc.) for a variety of effects:

- enhancing or emphasizing visual details or emotion of the subject (back-lighting, contrast, silhouettes, etc.)
- creating dramatic effects (spotlighting, for example)
- creating mood (atmosphere)

Low lighting often has a calming effect on viewers (relaxation, romance, mourning, mystery, or suspense).

Bright or high light often creates an atmosphere of excitement, energy, intense activity, and sometimes even tension or anxiety.

lines

These can be either visible or invisible lines that convey important information about an image. Different types of lines (diagonal, vertical, or horizontal) convey different meanings or moods. Lines can box a subject in, give the sense of direction or movement, or convey a feeling of solitude or loneliness, for example.

Lines also refers to the structure of a poem. For example, a haiku has 3 lines and a limerick has 5 lines.

linking question

On the Diploma Exam, you may see linking questions that ask you to consider two or more texts in your exam in order to answer the question. Be sure to consider the texts identified in the question, as they will give you the information you need to answer the question correctly.

literal language


Literal language is what we are using when we use words according to their dictionary definitions. Literal language is straightforward language.

“Figurative language” is the creative use of language.

long shot

Long shots (sometimes called “establishing shots” or “wide-angle shots”) are taken from a long distance, usually capturing the entire subject and background area. These types of shot are often used to convey information about the setting and how the character relates to the setting.

It gives the viewer an idea of distance, scale/size or of a journey being made.

low-angle shot	<p>The camera is angled up from below the subject.</p> <p>A low-angle shot suggests visual power or domination. It can make the audience feel insignificant or fearful. Whatever is filmed from a low angle often appears more imposing.</p>
low-key lighting	<p>This type of lighting refers to dim, uneven lighting with many shadows and plenty of contrast between dark and light areas in a scene.</p> <p>Low-key lighting is used when directors want to intensify the feeling of drama. For example, low-key lighting might be used in an interrogation scene staged in a police station.</p>
low lighting	<p>Low lighting is the opposite of bright (or high) lighting. Dim light like this can have a variety of effects. Depending on the image, low light can create a sense of calm, relaxation, romance, mourning, mystery, or suspense.</p>
	
match cuts	<p>This cut moves from one scene to the next with objects, spaces, or scene arrangements that match each other in appearance.</p> <p>The use of this cut implies there is a connection of some kind between the two scenes, whether symbolic, time-related, or character related.</p>
match dissolve	<p>A match dissolve is a transition using an image from one shot that retains its shape as a new image from the next shot dissolves in.</p>
medium shot	<p>The medium shot usually only has the top half of the subject in the frame.</p>
memoir	<p>A memoir is a true story based on the personal experience of the author.</p>
metaphor	<p>Metaphor is a type of figurative language. It is a comparison of two unlike things without the use of the word “like” or “as.”</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>My three-year-old sister is a walking megaphone. She says everything in a super loud voice, all the time. (The sister is being compared to a mega phone without the use of the words “like” or “as.” This is a direct metaphor.)</p> <p>The car’s headlights lasered through foggy night air. (The headlights are being compared to lasers without the use of the words “like” or “as.” This is an indirect metaphor.)</p>
metonymy	<p>Metonymy is a figure of speech where one thing is mentioned in place of a closely-related thing.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oval Office signed a bill today (the president signed the bill). • “The pen is mightier than the sword.” (Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839 substituted pen for the written word and sword for physical power.) • The film <i>Black Panther</i> changed Hollywood (Hollywood refers to the American film industry).

mid-ground	Mid-ground is the middle section of an image. If the mid-ground is the largest and/or most in-focus area of an image, it is likely the focal point and therefore the most important.
mid-ground shot	A mid-ground shot is a camera angle that shoots a subject straight ahead, as if it is on the same level as the camera. This can convey a sense of equality, common ground, or can just draw the viewer's attention to the subject's body language or to a conflict.
mise-en-scène	<p>Mise-en-scène is a term used both in theatre and film to describe everything other than dialogue that is used to help tell a story or set a mood.</p> <p>The mise-en-scène of a play or film is what makes the dialogue come to life and convey both emotion and meaning to the audience. Mise-en-scène includes all of the director's choices in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting • Set design and décor • Costuming (as well as makeup and hair) • Props • Blocking (actors' movement and placement on stage) • Framing of a shot (for film).
monologue	One character's long speech in the presence of other characters on stage.
mood	<p>Mood is the emotional atmosphere of a text, and it's the emotion that the audience is intended to feel.</p> <p>Note that mood is different from tone. Tone is the writer or speaker's attitude about the character or the subject of the text.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mood of a horror novel might be dark and frightening, but the narrator's tone might be sarcastic or darkly humorous.
moral	<p><i>Noun:</i> A moral is a principle or belief about right and wrong, goodness and badness. People with morals have a code of ethics that guides them in proper conduct.</p> <p><i>Adjective:</i> Moral means good or ethical. Someone with moral character may be generous, considerate, fair, truthful, sincere, and kind. An immoral person would deliberately violate the principles of right and wrong by being selfish, inconsiderate, unfair, dishonest, insincere, and unkind.</p>
motif	A motif occurs when the same symbol reappears throughout a text (film, poem, short story, novel, etc.). If you encounter a motif, you know that it's important to the story and likely related to the story's primary theme. Pay close attention to objects that keep appearing.

N

negative space	<p>Where the subject of a shot or image is referred to as occupying positive space, negative space is the space around the subject. In film, negative space is the space around the subject as it moves.</p> <p>The audience can usually expect that something will <i>eventually</i> fill the negative space in a shot. It is usually used to indicate something is missing or something is on its way.</p>
non-diegetic sound	Comes in different forms, such as a film's music soundtrack or voice-over (when an invisible narrator addresses the audience). Non-diegetic sound cannot be heard by the characters and is added into a film post-production, after the shots have been filmed.
non-fiction	<p>Non-fiction is factual and true. The information that is presented is not created or invented.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • autobiographies • memoirs • technical writings • journalism.

O

onomatopoeia	<p>Onomatopoeia is a type of figurative language that uses words to represent sounds.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My sink constantly goes drip, drip, drip. • Maria was terrified when she heard "Bang!" "Pow!" "Boom!" coming from the apartment next door. • Other sound effect words like: clang, chirp, crack, fizz, hiss, meow, thump, toot, whizz
open space	The subject of the frame is surrounded by open space (no objects and no people).
overgeneralizing	<p>Drawing a broad general conclusion about something even though it's apparent that contrary evidence could be found.</p> <p>Statements tend to have words or phrases such as "all", "no one ever", etc. We do need to generalize at times; overgeneralizing is going too far with a statement.</p>
oxymoron	<p>An oxymoron is a combination of two contradictory terms placed side by side. They seem opposite, but when they are put together, they do make sense.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try it on. It looks like a <i>large small</i>. • There was a <i>deafening silence</i> when Bob announced his retirement. • The nursing home has the <i>living dead</i>. • It was a <i>pretty ugly</i> goal. • Let's be <i>alone together</i>. <p>"Paradox" is a related concept, but a paradox is a whole statement that seems contradictory, but upon closer examination, is a statement that reveals truth.</p>

P

pan	<p>Panning refers to the horizontal movement of the camera. This produces a visual effect that is similar to what you would see if you moved your head from side to side.</p> <p>Pan/panning shots are often used to establish setting for the audience. For example, a panning shot of the ocean would give the viewer a sense of where the story is going to take place, or where it is headed.</p>
parable	<p>A parable is a short simple story that illustrates or teaches a moral attitude, a religious principle, or a spiritual lesson.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus taught with parables, such as the parable of the prodigal son who is welcomed back home after straying.
paradox	<p>A paradox is a statement that seems contradictory and doesn't seem to make sense or seems false, but, upon closer examination, makes sense and has truth.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relax, but don't get comfortable. • Be quick, but don't hurry. • I must be cruel to be kind. • With makeup, less is more. • Tony felt most alone when riding the crowded subway. <p>See "oxymoron" in this glossary. It is a related term.</p> <p>Note: On the Diploma Exam, you may see this form of the word: "paradoxical".</p>
parallelism	<p>Train tracks are parallel. The two tracks are side by side and run in the same direction and stay the same distance apart. They seem connected. Parallelism is about sameness.</p> <p>Characters' lives can be parallel. Their life paths, situations, and characteristics could be quite similar. A character could be confused and feeling stupid while several people around the character are also confused and feeling stupid.</p> <p>Parallelism in a List (parallel structure): Items are structured in the same way. The writer sets up a pattern for words, clauses, phrases, and verses and sticks with the pattern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not parallel (not balanced): I like to bike, swimming, and golfing on a golf course. • Parallel (a sign of good writing): I like to bike, swim, and golf. • Not parallel (unnecessary extra words): Mike is handsome, witty, and he is a very intelligent person. • Parallel (clear and simple list): Mike is handsome, witty, and intelligent. • Not parallel: The cat went around the corner, through the backyard, and then climbed the fence. • Parallel (3 prepositional phrases): The cat went around the corner, through the backyard, and over the fence. • Parallelism (the repeating pattern) promotes readability.

	<p>Parallelism Involving Sentences (parallel structure): Parallelism occurs when sentences or parts of sentences that are side-by-side have the same length, structure, and weight for balance. Parallelism occurs when the beginnings of sentences are formatted to achieve repetition, sameness, and balance. Martin Luther King’s famous speech (1963) has beautiful examples of parallelism. You will immediately notice the repetition, which can be very effective, but we have to be careful to not overdo repetition when writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up</i>” • “<i>I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia</i>” • “<i>I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi</i>” • “<i>I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation</i>” • “<i>I have a dream that one day in Alabama</i>” • “<i>I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted....</i>” • “<i>Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of</i> • <i>Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.</i>”
parenthetical	<p>Extra explanatory information or a comment can be inserted into a sentence. This parenthetical, if removed from the sentence, still leaves a complete sentence. Parenthetical phrases can be set off with parentheses, brackets, dashes, or commas. If you find a word or group of words interrupting the flow of a complete sentence and is extra nonessential info, you probably have found a parenthetical phrase. Separating the info from the rest of the sentence means that the info is less important.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This sentence (as you can see) has a parenthetical in parentheses. • This sentence—as you can see—has dashes setting off the nonessential info.
passive reading	<p>Passive reading is reading without questioning or thinking critically about the information in a text.</p>
passive viewing	<p>Passive viewing means viewing something (a film, a photograph, a cartoon, an advertisement, etc.) without questioning or thinking critically about the information in the texts or the methods the text creator is using to impact the viewer.</p>
passively	<p>Being passive means being inactive or accepting. Acting passively means that things just happen without a person making an effort.</p>
Paul Jones	<p>A dance in which partners are exchanged according to a pattern.</p>
perpetual	<p>Something continues without interruption.</p>
personification	<p>Personification is a type of figurative language (a special metaphor or simile) that gives human characteristics to nonhuman objects or animals:</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The horse laughed heartily at the clumsy rider. • After the long week of rain, the sun smiled on us, warming our skin.

philosophical	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relates to <i>philosophy</i>, which is concerned with deep questions in life about knowledge, reality, and existence. 2. Also refers to someone who is able to stay calm and thoughtful when tough situations arise. The person is levelheaded when encountering a problem.
plagiarism	<p>Plagiarism is a kind of stealing. It occurs when someone uses words or ideas that belong to others without giving proper credit for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Exact words</i> taken from outside sources (meaning outside of yourself) must be placed in quotation marks, and the source must be named in the piece of writing in parentheses. • <i>Paraphrased ideas</i> (rewording someone else's ideas) must also be referenced in parentheses immediately after the summarized ideas. • For both situations, a bibliography or works cited page must appear at the end of a piece of work that contains information from outside sources.
plausible	<p>This means <i>believable</i> or <i>realistic</i>. For an audience to be able to connect with a character or a story, the audience needs to believe that, at that moment in time, a real person would act in this way, or these events could really happen. Even in a science fiction story, the people and events need to be believable within the world of that story.</p> <p>"Good" stories have verisimilitude, which means that they seem plausible, real, and believable.</p>
playwright(s)	Playwrights are the people (text creators) who write plays.
plot	The series of events that make up a story. Plot is what happens in a story.
poetic structure	A poem's structure involves line length, line breaks, stanzas, punctuation, rhyme, rhythm (meter), and the arrangement of the words on the page (where the white space is placed). The structure is the form of the poem, how it is set up and organized. Some poems have a traditional structure (haiku, limerick, sonnet) while others do not (free verse, concrete poetry).
point of view	The point of view of a text describes <i>who</i> is telling the story and <i>how</i> it gets told. The four major points of view are "first-person narrator", "third-person objective", "third-person omniscient", and "third-person limited omniscient".
point-of-view shot	This shot is taken from the perspective of a character. The audience sees everything a character sees and how he sees it as he moves along.
prepositional phrase	<p>A prepositional phrase starts with a preposition and ends with its object (which can be a noun, pronoun, gerund, or clause). Many prepositions are "position" words in terms of time and space (place, position, direction).</p> <p>There are four prepositional phrases in this sentence: "He has a nap every day in his crib, with his favourite blanket, from 2-3 o'clock, and without his bottle."</p>
producer	<p>The producer is typically responsible for financial aspects of the play, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fundraising • managing payroll • advertising • hiring the stage crew and other behind-the-scenes staff • hiring the director

prologue	The prologue (sometimes called a preface) is an introduction to the play with information about setting or background of the story or characters.
props	<p>Props (short for <i>property</i>) consist of movable objects (other than furniture or costumes) on the set of a play or movie.</p> <p>Props contribute to the mise-en-scène, help tell a story, set a mood, or develop a character.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food • a pipe • a cane • a cell phone
prose	<p>This is any type of written text that is not poetry. Prose does not tend to rhyme or have a set rhythm.</p> <p>Prose is writing that is typically done in sentences and paragraphs. An essay is prose and so is a novel. If you are asked to write prose, do not write a poem or a song. Also, do not draw a picture.</p>
protagonist	The protagonist is the main character of a text who is trying to achieve some sort of goal. It's usually the person you are hoping succeeds, but it doesn't necessarily mean the character is a hero or even sympathetic.
psychological	<p>Relates to psychology, which is the science that studies people's behaviors and minds (not their bodies).</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a person is psychologically healthy, the person is in a good mental and emotional state.
pull-back	Pull-back is movement of the camera away from a specific subject. As opposed to zooming out, this effect is done by actually <i>moving the camera</i> (perhaps on a wheeled dolly or slider) <i>away</i> from the subject.
pun	<p>A pun is verbal humour involving double meanings of words (sometimes called a "play on words").</p> <p>Types of puns:</p> <p>Words sound the same but are spelled differently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I thought you were going to <i>sale</i> away today in the department store!" (Sale is substituted for <i>sail</i>.) <p>Words spelled the same but have different meaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naughty Child: "Give me that <i>pen</i> so I can colour on the walls! Parent: I have just the <i>pen</i> for you! (Play on the word "pen," a writing instrument, but also a cage.) <p>Malapropisms: a misuse of words to create humour; two words sound alike</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Their father was a civil <i>serpent</i>." (instead of <i>servant</i>)
push-in	<p>A push-in is a movement of the camera toward a specific subject. As opposed to "zooming in", this effect is done by actually moving the camera (perhaps on a wheeled dolly or slider) toward the subject. Usually this shot is used to highlight an important character realization or an epiphany.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The camera might push-in on a doctor's face at the moment he realizes how to cure a patient.

Q

quintessence

The most perfect example of something.

R

reframing

Reframing occurs in a single scene when the camera angle, direction, or aspect ratio is changed to make more or less content appear in the scene. Reframing occurs without a cut but can include a change in focus.

repetition

Repetition is a sound device. It is the repeating of the same words, phrases, or sentences. Repetition is used for emphasis.
An idea stands out more if we hear it more than once. Most songs have repetition because they have a repeating chorus, which allows us to memorize the chorus of a song faster than a verse in a song.
For examples of repetition, review Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech.
See also "parallelism."

rhyme

Rhyme is a sound device often used in poetry. It occurs when two or more words end with the same sound.
Example of rhyme from an excerpt of the Robert Frost poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

- Whose woods these are I think I **know**.
- His house is in the village **though**;
- He will not see me stopping here
- To watch his woods fill up with **snow**.

Note: The rhyme scheme in this stanza is a, a, b, a. Letters of the alphabet are used to code the sounds. Words ending with the same sound have the same letter.

rhythm

A series of stressed and unstressed syllables that combine to form a pattern.

rising action

These are the events that lead to the climax and complicate the plot and/or increase the tension in the story.

round character

These characters seem like real people. Their personalities are complex, well-developed, and have both good and bad traits. The protagonist is almost always a round character.

rule of thirds

Creators of visual texts often design their images as if they are divided into three equal parts, horizontally and vertically.
Imagine an invisible grid laid on top of an image with two vertical and two horizontal lines. Text creators will often try to put points of interest on the intersections of those lines because those intersections are where the eyes are drawn. Also, organizing objects in an image in this way tends to keep an image organized, well-balanced, and pleasing to the eye.

run-on sentence

A run-on sentence is another common sentence error. It occurs when **two or more complete sentences** are *run together* with nothing in between to join them.

Run-on Sentence:

A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day the darkness finally forced them inside.

A run-on can be fixed in four ways:

Method #1: Place a **period** (or question mark or exclamation point) to separate the clauses into two separate sentences.

Correct Sentence:

A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day. The darkness finally forced them inside.

Method #2: Place a **semicolon** between the clauses to separate them.

Correct Sentence:

A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day; the darkness finally forced them inside.

Method #3—Use a **coordinating conjunction plus a comma** to properly separate the sentences. Remember the acronym **FANBOYS** to help you recall the coordinating conjunctions. Note: Not all coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) make sense in every sentence. Choose the one that makes the most sense.

For

And

Nor

But

Or

Yet

So

Correct Sentence:

A group of energetic boys were playing street hockey on this sunny day, **and** only the darkness finally forced them inside.

Method #4—Make one of the sentences into a fragment that depends upon the other to make it complete. You can do this by just removing some words, or adding a subordinating conjunction. Here are a few commonly used subordinating conjunctions. Remember the acronym “**on a white bus**”:

Only if

Now that

Although

While, when, whenever

If

Though

Even though

Because, before

Until, unless

Since

S

sarcasm	<p>Sarcasm occurs when a person says one thing but means the opposite and what is said seems like praise, but it's really a put-down or an insult. Sarcasm is humorous on the surface, but it is intended to mock, taunt, or criticize someone. The person's tone of voice and the context give away the hurtful intention.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "So....is that what you think, Sherlock?" • "I never forget a face, but in your case I'll be glad to make an exception." (Groucho Marx)
satire	<p>The use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose, mock or criticize (lightly or harshly) human errors, vices, or failings. The text creator hopes to bring about change.</p> <p>For examples, do an internet search for "Canadian editorial cartoons satire" and select "Images."</p>
screenplay	<p>The written version of a film is called a screenplay. It contains all of the information directors and actors will need to make the film.</p>
script	<p>The written version of a play that contains all of the information directors and actors will need to put on the play: a list of character, lines of dialogue, stage directions, setting, etc.</p>
self-reflection	<p>Looking at one's own thoughts, feelings, actions, or work for the purpose of improvement.</p>
selfies	<p>Selfies are photographs taken by ourselves of ourselves using a camera or cell phone held at arm's length.</p>
sentence fluency	<p>This is the rhythm and flow of writing. You can improve sentence fluency by varying sentence lengths and sentence beginnings and by using transition words or phrases between ideas.</p>
sentence fragment	<p>A sentence fragment is an <i>incomplete sentence</i>. It's a group of words that cannot stand alone as a complete thought.</p>
set design	<p>The stage or area on which a scene is performed in a play or film is called the "set," so set design has to do with the arranging of furniture, props, and scenery on the set for a movie or play.</p>
setting	<p>Where and when a story takes place. This includes when the story as a whole takes place (such as modern day, 1984, or a particular year) as well as the location of individual scenes within the story (such as 5 a.m., or late at night). Setting also includes where the story takes place (on a particular planet, in a specific city, in a certain room of a house). Setting contributes to the mood of a story, gives the reader some context for the story, and often reveals a great deal about the characters in the story.</p>
shallow focus	<p>Shallow focus creates a scene where only one part of the shot is in focus and the rest of the image is out of focus.</p>

shot	A film is made up of a number of shots, which is a segment of action that is filmed all in one take, without disruption.
shots and angles	When a photographer takes a picture or a filmmaker films a scene, it's called a "shot." Different types of camera shots or angles convey different moods and messages about the subject in the image. Examples: "mid-ground", "wide-angle", "high-angle", "low-angle", "worm's-eye", "bird'-eye", "close-up" and "canted-angle" shots or angles used for various effects in a visual. Refer to the Unlocking the Mysteries of Visual Images Tutorial in the Student Resources section of your online course for definitions of each type of shot.
sibilant	Sibilant words have a hissing or whistling sound. These letters of the alphabet are sibilants: <i>s</i> , <i>z</i> , <i>sh</i> and <i>zh</i> (the sound of the <i>s</i> in "measure"). Here's a sibilant tongue twister: <i>Sally sells seashells by the seashore.</i>
side lighting	This term describes when a subject is half-lit, leaving the other half in shadow. The light-dark effect produced by side lighting is used when the director wants to emphasize that a character may not be who he seems or is perhaps feeling torn between two difficult choices he must make.
simile	A simile is a type of figurative language. It is a comparison of two unlike things using the word "like" or "as." Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has a hyena-like laugh. (Someone is being compared to a hyena using the word "like.") • I am as weird as a tuna in a school of goldfish. (I am comparing myself to a tuna in a school of goldfish using the word "as.")
situational irony	Situational irony is an event that occurs that is opposite of what was expected. You are surprised! Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A responsible citizen trying to catch a robber is mistaken for the criminal and put in jail.
slam poetry	Slam poetry is a type of competition in which people do dramatic readings of their original poems on stage and judges select the winners.
slang	Slang is informal words and phrases that are usually used by a special groups of people (e.g., teenagers, skateboarders). Slang quickly goes out of date. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gag me with a spoon. • He's the cat's pajamas!
slapstick comedy	A type of comedy characterized by physical humour and absurd situations.
soliloquy	A soliloquy is one character's private thoughts in a long speech said aloud when the character is alone on stage.

sound	<p>Sound refers to everything you hear in the film, whether it exists naturally from the environment in the shots or whether it is added after the entire film has been shot. We classify sound in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diegetic Sound: This is sound within a film that arises naturally from the action of the film. Example: You may hear characters speak to each other (dialogue) or a door slam. • Non-diegetic Sound: This is sound that cannot be heard by the characters and is added into a film post-production, <i>after</i> filming. Includes a film's music soundtrack or voice-over (an invisible narrator addresses the audience).
sound devices	<p>Writers may deliberately choose words because of how they sound when they are said aloud. Below are common sound devices. Read the examples aloud and listen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “repetition”: “The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah....” (the whole song has extensive repetition) • “onomatopoeia”: sound effect words (you make the sound when you say the word): “Baa, baa, black sheep....” and bam, thump, whizz, meow, quack, drip, ding • “alliteration”: tongue twisters (initial consonance sounds of nearby words are the same) • “rhyme”: the ending sounds of nearby words are the same: See two/shoe, four/door below. Notice that spelling doesn't matter; the matching end sounds matter. • “rhythm and metre”: Listen to the beat: “One, two / Buckle my shoe; / Three, four, / Shut the door....” Also, read any sonnet out loud and notice the iambic pentameter, the 5 strong beats of ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM in each line. <p>Other sound devices include the following: “assonance”, “consonance”, “cacophony”, “euphony”, and “dissonance”. However, concentrate on the six devices listed above.</p>
sound effect	Any artificially created sound that is <i>added</i> to a film. Sound effects and either be diegetic or non-diegetic.
soundtrack	Recorded music that is synchronized to the images of a film.
speaker	<p>When you are reading poetry, you may have a character inside the poem who is speaking. We call that narrative voice the <i>speaker</i>.</p> <p>When you are reading a short story or novel, you may have a character inside the story who is telling the story. We call that story-telling voice the “narrator”.</p>
spiral shot	In a spiral shot, the camera circles around and points inward at an individual or a group of people to provide a full 360-degree view. It can be a quick spiral or in slow motion.
stage directions	<p>The playwright may or may not include stage directions (sometimes called parentheticals or wrylies) for the actors that indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how an actor should say a line • where the actor should move on the stage (blocking) • how the actor should move • any props he or she should use (e.g., a cane, a hat, etc.)

stanza	A stanza is a group of lines in a poem. Often it is used like a paragraph is used in prose to group similar ideas or to break up ideas into manageable segments. Stanzas are easy to spot because the group of lines is set off by empty space. Stanzas may or may not have a set rhyme scheme, the same number of lines in each stanza, and the same length for each line. Note: <i>Prose</i> has words arranged in sentences and paragraphs whereas <i>poetry</i> has words arranged into lines and stanzas.
static character	Characters who stay the same throughout the course of a story are static characters. They tend to be minor characters in the story.
stem	The stem is the question or prompt.
symbol	A physical object, animal, or person that represents an abstract idea or belief.
synecdoche	Synecdoche is a figure of speech where a writer/speaker makes a substitution by naming a small part of something when actually referring to a larger whole thing or the writer/speaker mentions the larger whole thing when actually referring to one small part. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I need new wheels.” Wheels refers to the whole car; a person needs to buy the whole car, not just the wheels. This is an example of synecdoche using a part for the whole. • “Vegas won by three goals!” This is an example of the whole (all of a city) for a part (the Las Vegas Golden Knights hockey team). Also see a related term: “metonymy”.
syntax	Syntax refers to the arrangement of words and phrases in a sentence. It’s about word order (what word comes before and after another word). It’s about following certain basic rules so that sentences make sense and aren’t awkward. Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary points out that syntax is often “discussed in connection with diction” and gives excellent examples that illustrate the difference between discussing syntactical structure and diction. Syntax: involves the order of words: Robert Frost said, "Whose woods these are I think I know," rather than, "I think I know whose woods these are". Diction: involves the choice of words: "woods" rather than "land"; "think" rather than "bet"

T

tension	A sense of anxiety, conflict, or suspense. Most texts use tension to draw the audience in and create interest in the text.
text creator	A text creator is the person responsible for creating a text. This could be an author, poet, artist, designer, filmmaker, journalist, screenwriter, or performer.
texts	Texts are any form of communication that has a message or meaning. Photos, emails, novels, poems, visual art, songs, and oral communication, are some examples of texts

texture	Texture is the feel of an object's surface. Texture could be smooth, rough, slimy, sticky, etc. In a visual text, texture is often used to create interest or call attention to an important subject or detail.
theme	A theme is a complex statement about human nature or an insight into life that sums up the primary message of a text.
thesis	<p>The thesis is a one or two sentence statement that answers the assignment question, stating how the topic applies to society. Your thesis identifies the idea you will support with specific evidence in your essay.</p> <p>The thesis should not be a question, a fact, or a neutral statement. All information in your essay must have a connection to the thesis. Think of it this way: If you mention an idea in your thesis, you are promising to prove it or explain it later in your essay.</p>
third-person limited omniscient point of view	<p>This type of third person narrator follows only one character and can see the thoughts of only that character. The narrator can see the actions of the other characters but can only read the thoughts of one character.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen woke up that morning with a frown on his face. He scrambled to turn off the loud alarm, and when he couldn't, he flung his phone across the room. In his gut, he knew this was not going to be a good day, and he had a feeling that Allison, who was sleeping in the next room, was going to be the reason.
third-person objective point of view	<p>This type of third person narrator is like a camera. The storyteller can record only what is said and heard and cannot enter another character's mind.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen woke up that morning with a frown on his face. He scrambled to turn off the loud alarm, and when he couldn't, he flung his phone across the room.
third-person omniscient point of view	<p>This type of third person narrator is all-knowing. The narrator can see the thoughts and actions of more than one character.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen woke up that morning with a frown on his face. He scrambled to turn off the loud alarm, and when he couldn't, he flung his phone across the room. In his gut, he knew this was not going to be a good day. In the next room, Allison woke up with the same feeling. She threw her covers off and thought, I am not ready for this.
third-person point of view	<p>Third person point of view describes a story told from the perspective of a person who is not a character in the story.</p> <p>There are three types of third person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "third-person objective" (sometimes just called objective) • "third-person omniscient" • "third-person limited omniscient"
tilting	Tilting is when a still camera is titled (or pointed) up or down. This can be used to show that something is in low or high position or to follow an object or person upward or downward, such as someone climbing stairs or an object falling.

time stamp	<p>The time stamp is a reference to an exact time in a film or other type of video to help the audience locate certain moments within the text.</p> <p>For example, if you are given the time stamp of 1:52, that means that you are intended to cue the video to 1 minute and 52 seconds after the video begins. The beginning of a video would have the time stamp of 0:00.</p>
tone	<p>Tone is the attitude of the speaker or writer of a text toward the subject (which could be the characters or the subject matter of the text).</p> <p>For example, if the narrator of a text were to say, “As you can see, this character is clueless about life. He stumbles through his days without thinking of the future,” you can see that the speaker’s tone is condescending or pessimistic regarding the character.</p> <p>Tone is not the same as mood, however. Mood is the <i>emotional atmosphere of the text, the emotion that the audience is intended to feel</i>.</p> <p>For this reason, the tone and the mood aren’t always the same. For example, a text might have a <i>condescending tone</i> but a <i>humorous mood</i>.</p>
top lighting	This is lighting a subject in a scene from above.
topic sentence	Typically the first or last sentence of a paragraph that states what the paragraph is proving or explaining.
tracking	Tracking is usually done with a special camera mount called a dolly. The dolly is a wheeled platform that moves—a camera on the dolly can keep pace with the subject during filming. This allows the camera to move alongside the subject, such as a moving car.
tragedy	<p>A tragedy is a play that ends unhappily.</p> <p>Tragedies tend to have universal themes, showing characters clashing with the larger forces in life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • right and wrong • justice and injustice • life and death <p>The protagonist is usually a tragic hero (a character who is noble but has a flaw or weakness that leads to a tragic end).</p>
tragic hero	A character who is noble but has a flaw or weakness that leads to a tragic end.
transformation	<p>The process of changing and becoming completely different. There are two types of transformation:</p> <p>Additive: This means that a character begins at a certain point and improves. It’s not really a true transformation. Avoid writing about characters who only go through additive change.</p> <p>Transformational: This means that a character undergoes a significant and permanent change, often in how he or she views the world. Focus on transformational characters when you are writing an essay.</p>
transformational change	A character undergoes a significant and permanent change, often in terms of how he or she views the world.

transitions	<p>Transitions in film refer to work done in the editing process, after the shots have been filmed. These transitions join the shots together in ways that help the director convey his/her story.</p> <p>Transitions in written texts function the same way as in film. They join two ideas, paragraphs, or sentences together. Words like "first," "then," "however," "while," are just a few examples of transition words. Sometimes transitions can also be phrases or sentences such as "on the other hand," "in addition," etc.</p>
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U

under lighting	This is lighting a subject in a scene from below.
understatement	<p>Understatement is saying less than is the case. It's the opposite of "hyperbole".</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What the heck—it's only cancer." • "Connor McDavid is not bad as a hockey player." • "You must have been a bit hungry." (A mom says this to her son who ate four plates of Mac 'n Cheese.)
unifying	<p>You may see "unifying effect" on the Diploma Exam. If you understand "unity" and "unification", you know that a "unifying effect" occurs when things have been brought together and are connected.</p> <p>Example: A good writer achieves a unifying effect in a paragraph by writing a strong topic sentence with one main idea and then writing sentences that add details to support that one main idea. The ideas in the paragraph are connected. An extra idea in the paragraph means that the writer has strayed and the unifying effect has been lost.</p>
unostentatious	not pretentious, modest

V

verbal irony	<p>Verbal irony is saying one thing but meaning the opposite. If someone uses verbal irony to make fun of someone, that is considered sarcasm.</p> <p>Example of <i>verbal irony</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person looks outside the window during a blizzard and says, "Great day for a picnic!" <p>Example of <i>sarcasm</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone says to a lazy person, "Aren't you a hard worker!"
verisimilitude	This refers to something having the appearance of truth. Verisimilitude is important in fictional texts. Characters must seem like real people, and the events must seem possible.
vertical lines	Vertical lines (lines that run straight up and down) can give the impression of power, height, strength, expansion, or growth.
vision	Vision doesn't just mean actual eyesight. It also means having the ability to see clearly into the future.

voice	Just as you know the sound of your friend's voice without checking caller ID, your writing also has voice. Voice includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the words you choose • how you put your sentences together • what you like to write about • the evidence you use to support your ideas • your examples and descriptions • the explanations you choose
voice-over	Voice-overs can be in the form of a narrator speaking about the events in a scene or film. They are usually not recorded during the filming of the scene but added later during post-production

W

whip panning	Rapid movement of the camera sideways. The fast motion causes the image to blur.
white collar	This term is used to describe people who work in offices, typically at a desk. Traditional men's dress shirts tended to be white, hence the term "white collar."
white space	White space is the space purposefully left empty. It's also called "negative space" or "open space", and it's needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's the area between and around objects in a photograph. White space helps frame and emphasize the subject. • It's the area surrounding the words in a poem or prose. If you type a poem on a page, you can carefully arrange the placement of words and the white space. In an essay, your page margins and double spacing are the white spaces that makes it easier to read the words you put on the page.
wipe	A wipe is a transition that uses a line or shape that passes through the screen as one shot ends and is pushed away, being replaced by the next shot. The two shots do not blend. There are many types of wipes depending on the shape and movement of the line.
wit	A form of humor where words are used in a clever, amusing, and imaginative way. A witty person is known for making funny remarks.
worm's-eye shot	These are shots that are filmed either from the ground looking straight up at the subject (worm's eye), or from the air looking directly down at the subject ("bird's eye").

XYZ

zooming	A special lens is used to make it appear like the camera is moving towards the subject (zooming in) or away from the subject (zooming out). The camera itself is not moving, so zooming allows for rapid and smooth movement.
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