

## Cicero - Rhetorical Devices

---

- alliteration** Repeated consonant, used for emphasis.  
Eg. *patent portae; proficiscere* §10
- anadiplosis** ('Doubling back') Repetition of a word that ends one clause at the beginning of the next.  
Eg. *senatus haec intelligit, consul videt; hic tamen vivit. vivit? immo vero etiam in senatum venit.* §2
- anaphora** The repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of several successive clauses, used for emphasis.  
*Find three examples:*
- antistrophe** Repetition of the same word or phrase at the end of successive clauses.
- antithesis** The placement of words or ideas in a balanced or parallel construction: used to emphasise contrast or opposition.  
*Find three examples:*
- aposiopesis** The technique by which a speaker come to a sudden or abrupt halt, leaving his final thoughts unexpressed. This gives the impression of the speaker having become 'speechless', overwhelmed by anger, fear, excitement, modesty or other emotions.
- apostrophe** A sudden turn from the general audience to address a specific group or person (sometimes a personified abstraction eg. *Hear him, o Rome!*).

**asyndeton**

The omission of conjunctions where you would expect them. This adds force, point, conciseness to what is being said.

*Find three examples:*

**chiasmus**

A pair of balanced phrases where the order of the second reverses that of the first (ABBA). This is often used to heighten emphasis, contrast, opposition or can bring about the juxtaposition of two key words or ideas.

*Find two examples:*

**climax**

The arrangement of words, phrases or clauses in an order of ascending power - a high point of effect led up to gradually.

*Find two examples:*

**euphemism**

The substitution of a mild or roundabout expression for one that is considered too harsh or blunt.

**exemplum**

Historical or rhetorical examples/precedents introduced to illustrate a point and often used to highlight similarity or contrast to the situation under debate.

*Find two examples:*

**hendiadys**

The use of two words connected by a conjunction to express a single complex idea. This strengthens the ideas as a whole.

**hyperbaton**

Unusual word order - the separation of words which belong together - used for effect. Cicero uses this frequently to emphasise certain words or phrases.

Eg. magna dis immortalibus habenda est ... gratia §11

**hyperbole**

Exaggeration for emphasis or rhetorical effect

*Find two examples:*

**irony**

Expression of something which is contrary to the intended meaning: the words say one thing but mean another.

*Find one example:*

**juxtaposition**

The placing of words next to each other for effect.

**litotes**

Understatement for emphasis.

**metaphor**

Implied comparison achieved through figurative use of words.

*Find two examples:*

**polyptoton**

The repetition of a word in a different form or case, frequently used for emphasis.

**praeteritio**

('A passing over') Pretended omission for rhetorical effect, usually introduced by words like *omitto*, *praetereo*, *praetermitto*, *nihil dico*. By pretending to say nothing of a subject, the speaker actually puts it strongly into the minds of his audience.

*Find two examples:*

**prolepsis**

The positioning of a relative clause before its antecedent for emphasis.

Eg. quos ferro trucidari oportebat, eos nondum voce vulnero! §9

**rhetorical question** Asked to produce an effect, rather than to get information, and intended to make a powerful impact on an audience.

*Find three examples:*

**rhetorical exclamation** To add emotion to a speaker's words and often to express anger, indignation, bewilderment.

*Find two examples:*

**tricolon**

The use of three parallel clauses, phrases, or words. In tricolon crescendo these build to a climax, the last element usually being the longest.

*Find three examples:*

Also consider

- his emphatic positioning of words
- sentence length - short sentences which are powerful
- his use of **superlatives**
- his use of strong or vivid vocabulary
- changes in his tone
- arguments that he reinforces with repetition