
PERSONIFICATION

What Is Personification?

Personification is a figure of speech that is used to attribute human characteristics to something that is not human. It can also be used to personify an abstract quality.

Personification, according to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, is defined as "the practice of representing objects, qualities, etc. as humans, in art and literature; an object, quality, etc. that is represented in this way." The Cambridge Dictionary defines personification as "the act of giving a human quality or characteristic to something which is not human."

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, personification is defined as the "representation of a thing or abstraction as a person or by the human form." Personification is defined as "the attribution of human characteristics to things, abstract ideas, etc., as for literary or artistic effect", and "the representation of an abstract quality or idea in the form of a person, creature, etc., as in art and literature", according to the Collins Dictionary.

How to Use Personification in a Sentence? – Points to Keep in Mind

Personification can be used in a sentence to describe something concisely and also to bring a deeper meaning and connection to the object or virtue being personified. However, it is figurative and so it cannot be used in formal essays, any kind of professional or technical writing or to convey something literal.

When you want to use personification in a sentence, make sure it makes sense. Like every other figure of speech, personification also has to be used only if necessary. Personification can be used to make your readers empathise with the characters, both human and non-human, in your writing. The one thing that you will have to take care of is to use the right verbs that describe exactly what you wish to convey.

Examples of Personification

Take a look at a few examples of personification to have a much better understanding of how it can be used.

Personification Examples from Literature

Example 1:

Given below is an example of personification from the poem titled, *Hey Diddle, Diddle* by Mother Goose.

"Hey, Diddle, Diddle,

The cat and the fiddle,

The cow jumped over the moon;

The little dog laughed

To see such sport,

And the dish ran away with the spoon.”

Example 2:

“Ah, William, we’re weary of weather,”

said the sunflowers, shining with dew.

“Our traveling habits have tired us.

Can you give us a room with a view?”

William Blake personifies sunflowers as if they are talking to him in his poem, *Two Sunflowers Move in the Yellow Room*.

Personification Examples in Everyday Language

Literature is definitely the best source to understand how personification works. However, personification can be used in everyday life as well. Let us take a look at a few examples to see how.

- The flowers danced to the wind.
- I felt like the food kept calling me.
- The stars were sparkling and winking at all of us.