

Alliteration - Theory

REVISE

- ✓ Alliteration is when a letter or sound is repeated at the beginning of two or more consecutive words. Alliteration can make your writing more engaging by adding rhythm and musicality to your work. It can also be used to make your writing more immersive for a reader, creating sounds which reflect what is being described. Furthermore, it can be used to create snappy, memorable phrases.

Example 1:

Slowly, the soft waves stroked the shore.

Explanation:

Here, the letter 's' is repeated across the words *slowly*, *soft*, *stroke* and *shore*. The soft sound creates a calm and soothing tone, reflecting the serenity of the description itself. The soft 's' sound also echoes the gentle rush of the waves.

Example 2:

The fire crackled and coughed as the smoke cut through the room.

Explanation:

Here, the letter 'c' and its harsh sound is repeated across the words *crackled*, *coughed* and *cut*. This creates a loud and striking noise which immerses the reader in the description.

Example 3:

Little Larry, laughing merrily, leapt across the lock.

Explanation:

Here, the letter 'l' is repeated across the words *little, Larry, laughing, leapt* and *lock*. This creates a playful and joyful rhythm, reflecting the fun that the character is having.

Example 4:

Dark shadows danced desperately across the dreary sky.

Explanation:

Here, the letter 'd' and its harsh, aggressive sound is repeated across the words *dark, danced, desperately* and *dreary*. This enhances the description of the wild storm by creating a deep and thunderous sound.

Example 5:

Her terrible directions sent us hopelessly circling the city.

Explanation:

Here, a soft 'c' sound is repeated, although different letters are used. The sound is repeated in the words *sent, circling* and *city*.

PRACTICE

1 What is repeated in an alliterative sentence?

- A. Words and phrases
- B. Letters and sounds
- C. Punctuation
- D. Names and places
- E. Senses

Mark Scheme

Hints	They usually come at the beginning of a word.
Answer	B - Letters and Sounds
Answer Explanation	Alliteration describes the repetition of sounds or letters, at the beginning of words that are close to each other.



2

Cloze

The storm sang **(i)** _____ songs above. As we listened, its screams got louder, echoing across the vast and empty sky. Suddenly, flashes of **(ii)** _____ light lit up the horizon. We froze. Lucy began to run towards the entrance of the field, frantically gesturing at me to **(iii)** _____. I ran as fast as I could through the long grass that **(iv)** _____ against my knees. When we finally reached the gate, we looked back once more at the **(v)** _____ tempest that towered above us.

Fill in the blanks with the correct word to complete the alliterative sentences.

- A. luminescent
- B. lashed
- C. terrifying
- D. sorrowful
- E. follow

Mark Scheme

i)

Hints	The words <i>storm</i> , <i>sang</i> , and <i>songs</i> appear here. Which word also begins with a similar sound or letter?
Answer	D - sorrowful
Answer Explanation	There is an alliterative 's' that appears at the beginning of <i>storm</i> , <i>sang</i> , <i>sorrowful</i> and <i>songs</i> .



ii)

Hints	The words <i>light</i> and <i>lit</i> appear nearby. Which word also begins with a similar sound or letter?
Answer	A - luminescent
Answer Explanation	There is an alliterative 'l' that appears in the phrase <i>luminescent light lit</i> up the horizon.

iii)

Hints	The words <i>field</i> and <i>frantically</i> appear nearby. Which word also begins with a similar sound or letter?
Answer	E - follow
Answer Explanation	There is an alliterative 'f' in words <i>field, frantically</i> and <i>follow</i> .

iv)

Hints	The word <i>long</i> appears nearby. Which word also begins with a similar sound or letter?
Answer	B - lashed
Answer Explanation	The alliterative 'l' is repeated in <i>long</i> and <i>lashed</i> .

v)

Hints	The words <i>tempest</i> and <i>towered</i> appear nearby. Which word also begins with a similar sound or letter?
Answer	C - terrifying
Answer Explanation	There is an alliterative 't' that appears in the phrase <i>the towering tempest that towered</i> above us.



3

Match the column:

Match the words to create an alliterative phrase.

Column 1		Column 2	
i.	Swirling	A	Perfect
ii.	Lonesome	B	Rays
iii.	Radiant	C	Calm
iv.	Picture	D	Cyclone
v.	Quiet	E	Lake

Mark Scheme

Column 1		Column 2	
i.	Swirling	A	Perfect
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i)

Hints	Look for the word which starts with the same sound, not the same letter.
Answer	D - Swirling cyclone
Answer Explanation	The 's' sound is repeated at the start of 'swirling' and 'cyclone'.

ii)

Hints	Look for the word that starts with the same sound and letter.
Answer	E - Lonesome lake
Answer Explanation	The 'l' sound is repeated at the start of 'lonesome' and 'lake'.

iii)

Hints	Look for the word that starts with the same sound and letter.
Answer	B - Radiant rays
Answer Explanation	The 'r' sound is repeated at the start of 'radiant' and 'rays'.

iv)

Hints	Look for the word that starts with the same sound and letter.
Answer	A - Picture perfect
Answer Explanation	The 'p' sound is repeated at the start of 'picture' and 'perfect'.

v)

Hints	Look for the word which starts with the same sound, not the same letter.
Answer	C - Quiet calm
Answer Explanation	A 'k' sound is repeated at the start of 'quiet' and 'calm'.

4 Scenario-based

Describe the setting using alliteration. Write three sentences. One has been done for you.

i



iii

ii

The salty sea swept across the shore.

iv



Mark Scheme

<p>Model Answer</p>	<p>i) → The wooden hut <u>c</u>reaked and <u>c</u>racked in the wind. → The wind <u>r</u>ushed <u>r</u>ampantly through the <u>r</u>ickety windows. → The <u>b</u>rown paint <u>b</u>ubbled under the <u>b</u>linding sun.</p> <p>ii) → The <u>s</u>alty <u>s</u>ea <u>s</u>wept across the shore. → The blue <u>w</u>aves <u>w</u>ashed over the sand. → Crystalline water <u>c</u>rept carefully up the shoreline.</p> <p>iii) → Thick, white <u>c</u>louds <u>c</u>lung to each other. → <u>R</u>ays of light <u>r</u>eached desperately through the <u>c</u>laggy <u>c</u>louds. → The <u>d</u>arkening sky <u>d</u>eprived the beach of light.</p> <p>iv) → The <u>r</u>igid <u>r</u>ocks <u>r</u>ebelled against the soft horizon. → Large, craggy <u>s</u>tones <u>s</u>tood their ground. → <u>M</u>ossy <u>m</u>ulch <u>m</u>elted over the rocks.</p>
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5

Rapid Fire

1. **Is the following statement true or false?**

In alliterative sentences, a letter or sound is repeated at the beginning of two or more neighbouring words.

2. **Think of a word to complete the alliterative phrase:**

Sullen winds _____ through the sky.

3. **Think of a word to complete the alliterative phrase:**

The languorous lake _____ in the sun.

4. **Does the following sentence contain alliteration?**

Ross and Ben sprinted down the track like mad animals.

5. **Is the following statement true or false?**

Writers sometimes use alliteration to add rhythm and musicality to their writing.

6. **Think of a word to complete the alliterative phrase:**

Bonnie and Ben _____ through the trees.

7. **Does the following sentence contain alliteration?**

The misty sky embraced the mountains mournfully.

8. **Is the following statement true or false?**

Alliteration can only be used in persuasive texts.

9. **Think of a word to complete the alliterative phrase:**

The flowers fought against the _____ winter wind.

10. **Does the following sentence contain alliteration?**

City sirens sang throughout the night.



Mark Scheme

i)

Hints	Here is an example of alliteration: <i>Ships sailed silently into the distance.</i> Does this match the definition?
Answer	True
Answer Explanation	This is true - it is the definition of alliteration.

ii)

Hints	Pick any verb that begins with an 's' sound.
Answer	Accept any verb that repeats the 's' sound, e.g., <i>swept.</i> The sentence must still make sense.
Answer Explanation	The alliterative sound here is 's'. So, students need to select a word that continues this pattern.

iii)

Hints	Pick a verb that begins with an 'l' sound.
Answer	Accept any verb that repeats the 'l' sound, e.g., <i>lounged.</i> <i>The sentence must still make sense.</i>
Answer Explanation	The alliterative sound here is 'l'. So, students need to select a word that continues this pattern.



iv)

Hints	Are any sounds repeated at the beginning of each word?
Answer	No
Answer Explanation	In alliterative sentences, a letter or sound is repeated at the beginning of two or more neighbouring words.

v)

Hints	Alliteration is often used in poems and lullabies.
Answer	True
Answer Explanation	Alliteration is often used to create rhythmic sounds. This is why it is often used in songs and poems.

vi)

Hints	Pick a verb that begins with an 'b' sound.
Answer	Accept any verb that repeats the 'b' sound, e.g., <i>bounced</i> . The sentence must still make sense.
Answer Explanation	The alliterative sound here is 'b'. So, students need to select a word that continues this.

vii)

Hints	Are any sounds repeated at the beginning of each word?
Answer	Yes
Answer Explanation	The 'm' sound is repeated across 'misty', 'mountains', and 'mournfully'.



viii)

Hints	What other kinds of texts use alliteration?
Answer	False
Answer Explanation	Alliteration can also be used in descriptive or narrative texts.

ix)

Hints	Pick an adjective that begins with an 'f' sound.
Answer	Accept any adjective that repeats the 'f' sound, e.g., fierce. The sentence must still make sense.
Answer Explanation	The alliterative sound here is 'f'. So, students need to select a word that continues this.

x)

Hints	Are any sounds repeated at the beginning of each word?
Answer	Yes
Answer Explanation	The soft 's' sound is repeated across 'city', 'sirens', and 'sang'.