

ERROR RECOGNITION

MIXED (MISUSED) METAPHORS

Mixed metaphors are different metaphors – occurring in the same utterance, especially in the same sentence – which are used to express the same concept. They are usually illogical (contradictory). Mixed metaphors often, but not always, result in a conflict of concepts.

EXAMPLES

1. We saw the writing on the wall and realised it was not a level playing field.
2. All at once he was alone in this noisy hive with no place to roost.
3. Instead of biting the bullet, many Jamaicans prefer to throw in the towel.
4. If we can hit the bull's eye, then the rest of the dominoes will fall like a house of cards.

CLICHÉ

A cliché is an expression, idea, or element of an artistic work which has become overused to the point of losing its original meaning, or effect, to the point of being trite or irritating. This especially occurs when, at some earlier time, it was considered meaningful or novel.

EXAMPLES

1. What goes around comes around.
2. Make hay while the sun shines.
3. The early bird catches the most worms.
4. Out of sight, out of mind.
5. Action speaks louder than words.

PROVERB

This is a brief, popular saying that gives advice about how people should live or expresses a belief that is generally thought to be true.

1. Empty barrels make the most noise.
2. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
3. Birds of a feather flock together.
4. When trouble come, pickney shut fit you.
5. The early bird catches the most worms.

IDIOM

This is an expression that cannot be understood from the meanings of its separate words but has a separate meaning of its own together.

EXAMPLES

Kick the bucket (die) Spilled the beans (let out a secret) Feeling blue (sad) An arm and a leg
(very expensive)

ACTIVITY

Instructions: Select the option A, B, C, or D that BEST describes EACH of the sentences and mark your choice on your answer sheet.

- (A) The sentence is acceptable as it stands.
 - (B) The sentence contains clichés or misused metaphors.
 - (C) The sentence is incorrect grammatically or faulty in diction.
 - (D) The sentence is too wordy, that is, repetitive or contains redundancies.
1. In my opinion, I think that your suggestion to upgrade housing facilities in rural areas is impractical.
 2. It is his view, and one which he strongly holds, that constitutionally elected governments should not be toppled by force of arms.
 3. When the clerk raised his voice in protest, his boss asked him to hold his tongue since empty vessels made the most noise.
 4. The extremely extravagant girl was so animated, cheerful and high-spirited, she was invited to many parties.
 5. Is it any wonder why the children that Miss Brown knows behave like delinquents when they have a heroine that thinks the worst of them and their kind?
 6. In the early years of one's life, one must sow and build in order to reap the harvest of achievement before the final curtain.
 7. There is no doubt in our minds about the person who committed this heinous and criminal act.
 8. Donald and me are very disappointed with the outcome of the games.
 9. Any disease such as diabetes or cancer which are difficult to cure must be researched.
 10. The consensus of opinion was that the test was the easiest they have had in years. 6. The team fought tooth and nail to avoid being defeated. 7. She was recommended for the position because of her efficiency and diligence.

11. The principal and the parents launched the project as a rocket, but could not keep pace with its speed above water.
12. Though he seems to walk with an air of arrogance, he is a down-to-earth person who has never lost the common touch.
13. It is unreasonable to expect Robin and I to pay all expenses since you're earning an income also.
14. The principal declared how the school was granted a holiday for the purpose of celebrating its achievements.
15. I have read two newspaper reports of the incident; however, the one in last week's newspaper is the most accurate.
16. Being a productive worker, it requires hard work, a positive attitude, and a willingness to learn from one's mistakes.
17. She is one of the most brilliant high-performing women who has been promoted to a senior position in the company.
18. It was their customary habit to reach school in time for general assembly.
19. Instead of biting the bullet, many Jamaicans prefer to throw in the towel.
20. My sister specializes in making a mountain out of molehill.