

AP ENGLISH III – THE VOCABULARY OF RHETORIC PART II

1. **Denotation** – the literal or dictionary meaning of a word.
2. **Dialect** – the re-creation of regional spoken language such as Southern dialect.
3. **Diction** – the author's choice of words that creates tone, attitude, and style, as well as meaning.
4. **Didactic** – writing whose purpose is to instruct or to teach. A didactic work is usually formal and focuses on moral or ethical concerns.
5. **Discourse** – a discussion on a specific topic.
6. **Disequilibrium** – A loss or a lack of stability; imbalance
7. **Ellipsis** – Indicated by a series of three periods, the ellipsis indicates that some material has been omitted from a given text. It could be a word, a phrase, a sentence, a paragraph, or a whole section.
8. **Epigraph** – the use of a quotation at the beginning of a work that hints at its theme.
9. **Euphemism** – a more acceptable and usually more pleasant way of saying something that might be inappropriate or uncomfortable.
10. **Euphony** – the pleasant, mellifluous presentation of sounds in a literary work.
11. **Exposition** – background information presented in a literary work.
12. **Extended Metaphor** – a sustained comparison, often referred to as a *conceit*.
13. **Figurative Language** – the body of devices that enables the writer to operate on levels other than the literal one.
14. **Flashback** – a device that enables a writer to refer to past thoughts, events, or episodes.
15. **Form** – the shape or structure of a literary work.
16. **Gestalt** – A whole that assumes qualities that cannot be explained as merely as a sum of its parts; when the whole is somehow greater than the summation of its parts.
17. **Hyperbole** – extreme exaggeration, often humorous, it can also be ironic; the opposite of understatement.
18. **Image** – a verbal approximation of a sensory impression, concept, or emotion.
19. **Imagery** – the total effect of related sensory images in a work of literature.
20. **Induction/inductive reasoning** – the process that moves from a given series of specifics to a generalization. **Example:** All of the ice we examined is cold. Therefore, all ice is cold.
21. **Inference** – making an educated assumption based on material presented to you
22. **Invective** – a verbally abusive attack.
23. **Irony** - At the most basic sense, saying the opposite of what you mean; also used to describe situations in which the results of an action are dramatically different than intended.
24. **Juxtaposition** – Placing two very different things together for effect.

Ex: "There they stood together, the beggars and the lords, the princesses and the washerwoman, all crowding into the square."
25. **Litotes** – Ironic understatement where an affirmative is expressed by the negative of its contrary. Examples: "You won't be sorry!" (You'll be glad.) "Not too shabby" (Good!) "He wasn't as young as he once was." (He's old).