ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Personification

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how writers make a story feel alive, like a wind that whispers through the trees or a car that groans up a hill. A wind that whispers feels gentle, and a car that groans feels tired, so the reader pictures both without a long description. Poets and storytellers use it to give weather, animals, and objects a personality the reader can feel. It is a small trick that makes ordinary writing feel vivid.



Rule

Personification gives a non-human thing a human quality or action.

Ask whether the action is something only a person could do. If it is, and the writer gives it to a non-human thing, that is personification.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Is this personification? 'The wind whispered through the trees.'

SOLUTION

Ask: can wind really whisper? No, whispering is human.

The writer gives wind a human action.

Yes, it is personification.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Is this personification? 'The wind blew through the trees.'

SOLUTION

Ask: is blowing a human-only action? No, wind naturally blows.

No human quality is given.

No, it is not personification.

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Practice questions

1 The sun smiled down on us. Is this personification?

- **A** Yes
- **B** No

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2 What human quality does 'The wind whispered through the trees' give the wind?

- **A** A voice
- **B** A colour
- **C** A size
- **D** A speed

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3 The old house groaned in the storm. Which word gives the house a human sound?

- A old
- B house
- C groaned
- D storm

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4 Why is 'The sun smiled down on us' personification?

- A Because smiling is something only a person can do
- B Because the sun is hot
- C Because it is daytime
- D Because the sun is in the sky

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5 Why does a writer use personification?

- A To make writing feel alive and vivid
- B To make sentences shorter
- C To list facts clearly
- D To avoid describing things

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6 Which sentence uses personification to show anger?

- A The storm raged all night.
- B The storm lasted all night.
- C The storm brought rain.
- D The storm moved east.

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7 Which one is personification?

A The flowers danced in the breeze.

B The flowers grew in the garden.

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8 Which word would turn 'The rain fell all day' into personification?

A cried

B fell

C grey

D cold

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9

What does 'The alarm screamed' suggest about the alarm's sound?

A It was loud and sudden

B It was quiet

C It was broken

D It was musical

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10

Which one is NOT personification?

A The waves clapped against the shore.

B The waves crashed against the shore.

C The waves danced in the wind.

D The waves whispered to the beach.

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ANSWER KEY

1. Yes

2. A voice

3. groaned

4. Because smiling is something only a person can do

5. To make writing feel alive and vivid

6. The storm raged all night.

7. The flowers danced in the breeze.

8. cried

9. It was loud and sudden

10. The waves crashed against the shore.

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