

IE First Year English – Mid-Term Study Guide

Section 1: Poetic Devices

Device	Definition	Example
Onomatopoeia	A word that imitates a sound.	<i>Buzz, splash, bang, whisper</i>
Simile	A comparison using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> .	<i>Her smile was as bright as the sun.</i>
Metaphor	A comparison saying one thing <i>is</i> another.	<i>Time is a thief.</i>
Hyperbole	Exaggeration for effect.	<i>I've told you a million times!</i>
Imagery	Language that appeals to the senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell).	<i>The golden sun dipped below the crimson horizon.</i>
Personification	Giving human qualities to non-human things.	<i>The wind whispered through the trees.</i>

Tip: When analysing a poem, look for these devices and ask:

- What image or feeling does it create?
- Why might the poet have used this technique?

Section 2: Grammar and Sentence Structure

Parts of Speech

Term	Definition	Example
Noun	A person, place, thing, or idea.	<i>dog, Dublin, happiness</i>
Verb	An action or state of being.	<i>run, is, believe</i>
Adjective	Describes a noun.	<i>happy, red, tall</i>
Adverb	Describes a verb, adjective, or another adverb (often ends in <i>-ly</i>).	<i>quickly, very, always</i>
Conjunction	A word that connects words or sentences.	<i>and, but, because, although</i>

Sentence Structure

Term	Definition	Example
Subject	The person or thing doing the action.	<i>The cat sleeps.</i>

Term	Definition	Example
Predicate	The part of the sentence that tells what the subject does.	The cat <i>sleeps on the mat</i> .
Complete Sentence	Has a subject, predicate, full stop, and expresses a full thought.	<i>The cat sleeps on the mat.</i>

Section 3: Elements of Storytelling (Prose)

Understanding these helps you analyse short stories and novels.

Element	Definition	Example
Exposition	The beginning of a story where the setting, characters, and situation are introduced.	<i>In a small village by the sea, a young girl dreams of adventure.</i>
Conflict	The main problem or struggle in the story. Can be internal (<i>man vs self</i>) or external (<i>man vs man/nature/society</i>).	<i>Harry Potter vs Voldemort</i>
Setting	Where and when the story takes place.	<i>Dublin, 1916 — during the Easter Rising.</i>

Tip for analysis:
Ask yourself —

- *What's the main problem or challenge?*
- *Where and when does it happen?*
- *How does the author introduce us to the story's world?*

Study Tips

- **Create flashcards** for definitions and examples.
- **Practice writing** sentences identifying subject, predicate, and parts of speech.
- **Revise regularly** — short, frequent sessions are more effective than cramming.
- **Try sample questions**, e.g.
 - Identify three poetic devices in this poem and explain their effect.
 - Write your own short paragraph using a simile, metaphor, and onomatopoeia.
 - Label the subject, verb, and object in these sentences.