

*Understanding*

Literal

**VS**

Figurative

*Language*



- What is literal and figurative language?
- Types of figurative language:
  - Simile-compares two concepts with connecting words (“like”, “as”, etc.)

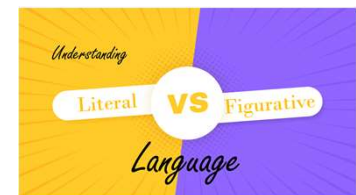
## I Thessalonians 5:2<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”



## Proverbs 25:11 (NKJV)

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver."



# Psalm 102 (NKJV)



## Matthew 13:44-48<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away."





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## John 15:1-8<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

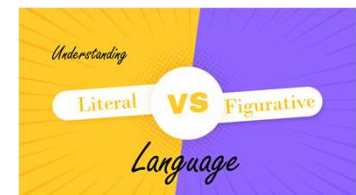
"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."





## Matthew 5:13,14 (NKJV)

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

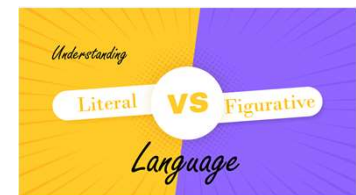




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## Psalm 98:8<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together”



## Psalm 77:16 (NKJV)

“The waters saw You, O God; The waters saw You, they were afraid; The depths also trembled.”



# Proverbs 8<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

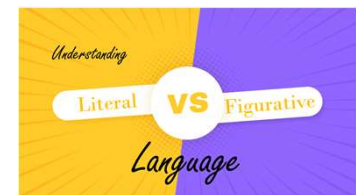




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## Matthew 5:29<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”



## II Chronicles 1:15<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

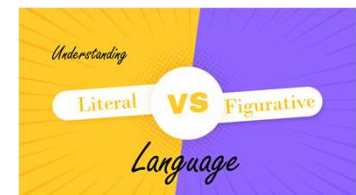
“Also the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.”





## John 12:19<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"”



## John 21:25 (NKJV)

“And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.”

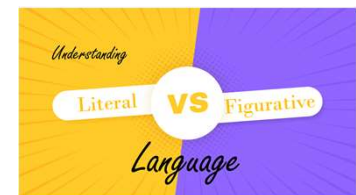




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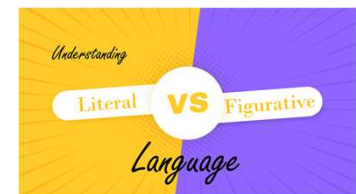
## Genesis 3:19<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”



## Ephesians 6:12<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”





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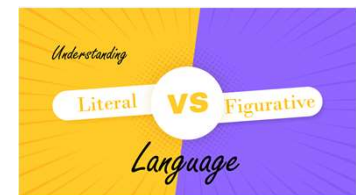
## Matthew 21:25 (NKJV)

“The baptism of John--where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'"



## Matthew 11:21 (NKJV)

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”





## Romans 13:4<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”



## Revelation 1:12 (NKJV)

“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,”



## I Corinthians 11:25-27 (NKJV)

“In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."





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Rules for determining which type of language is used:

- Assume the language is literal unless the text or tone demands otherwise

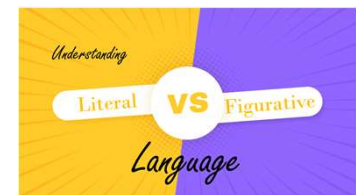


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## John 2:19-21 (NKJV)

“Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body."



## Matthew 16:6-12 (NKJV)

“Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread." But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? "Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? "Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? "How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? --but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees."







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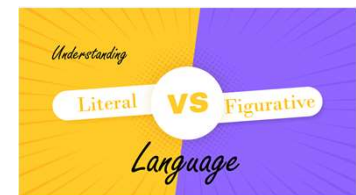
## Matthew 5:13 (NKJV)

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”



## II Corinthians 6:14<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”





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- Interpret the language figuratively if a literal interpretation would condone sinful activity

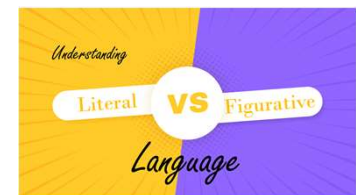
## II Corinthians 11:8<sup>(NKJV)</sup>

“I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.”



## Luke 14:26<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”



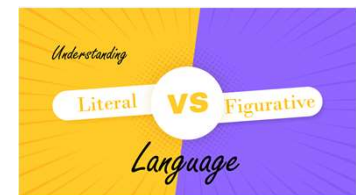


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- Interpret the language literally unless doing so would result in an impossibility or absurdity
- Interpret the language figuratively if a literal interpretation would condone sinful activity
- Interpret the language figuratively if a literal interpretation would force a contradiction

## John 11:26<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“"And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"”





## Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,”



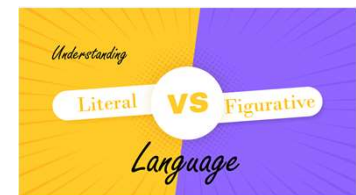


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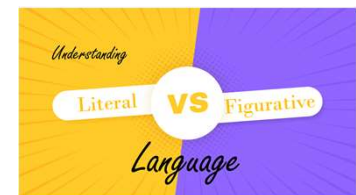
## I Corinthians 3:2<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

“I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;”



## Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,”





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