

- 7) apostrophe--words are addressed in an exclamatory tone to a thing regarded as a person or to an actual person (who is often absent).

cf. above, number 5), Ps. 114:3-7 Geographical features addressed as a person

Zech. 4:7 The mountain is addressed as a person

- 8) ellipsis--a grammatically incomplete structure which requires the interpreter to supply the missing words or to alter the structure to make sense of the text.

Normally
Filled in by the
context

Rom. 5:16

- 9) litotes--a negative statement (or an understatement) used to declare a positive truth.

1 Cor. 7:40 An understatement heightening Paul's claim to be writing by the Spirit

Acts 27:13-14 "before very long"; i.e. very shortly

- 10) hyperbole--a calculated overstatement. -To be judiciously used, b/c overuse makes our communication lose truthfulness

Lk. 14:26 A disciple must "hate" Father & mother, etc.

Jn. 21:25? In other words, John was not trying to tell us everything that Jesus did

- 11) irony (sarcasm)--the use of words to denote the exact opposite of what is stated.

1 Cor. 4:10 Paul's sarcastic comparison b/w himself and the Corinthians

1 Kgs. 18:27 Elijah's mocking of the prophets of Baal

- 12) symbol--using Mickelsen's definition: "a sign which suggests meaning rather than stating it. Symbols can be ambiguous if no "key" is given to their interpretation, e.g., the number of the beast, 666, is an ambiguous symbol.

Dan. 2:31-45

A difficult question is whether numbers are inherently symbolic (at least biblical numbers). Or do certain numbers carry symbolical overtones by virtue of the associations that they have (their use in context) especially in particular types of literature?

An interesting book is J. Davis, Biblical Numerology (Baker).