

Component 2: The Importance of Being Earnest Knowledge Organiser

LANGUAGE AND LITERARY TERMS				STRUCTURAL TERMS
Idiom	A phrase or expression that typically presents a figurative, non-literal meaning attached to the phrase <i>E.g., 'over the moon' 'a piece of cake'</i>	Verbal sparring	An argumentative, back-and-forth conversation <i>The verbal sparring between Gwendolen and Cecily also coincides with humorous physical comedy.</i>	Satire: A genre which uses exaggeration, hyperbole, irony, humour etc. to mock or ridicule a particular person, group, or ideology
Figurative language	devices focusing on imagery and making analogies between objects and concepts. <i>Metaphors, similes</i>	Paradox	A seemingly absurd or contradictory statement or proposition; can be situational	Farce: a comic dramatic work using buffoonery and horseplay and typically including crude characterisation and ludicrously improbable situations.
Parallel Syntax	(or parallelism) is a rhetorical device that consists of repetition among adjacent sentences or clauses. <i>There are numerous examples of parallel syntax in Gwendolen and Cecily's hostile conversation.</i>	Binary opposition	A pair of related terms or concepts that are opposite in meaning. <i>"The binary opposition of servant and master is considerably blurred in the play's opening scene."</i>	Deus ex machina: a plot device whereby an unsolvable problem in a story is suddenly and abruptly resolved
Turn-taking	A back-and-forth progression in a conversation. <i>The turn-taking between Gwendolen and Cecily is characterised by interrogatives.</i>	Euphemism	A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh <i>'He went to a better place.'</i>	Verbal irony: statement in which the speaker's words are incongruous with the speaker's intent.
Paralinguistic features	Non-language features, including body language indicated by stage directions. <i>"The paralinguistic features give us insight into the tension that dominates the scene"</i>	Epigram (Epigrammatic statement)	A saying or remark expressing an idea in a clever and amusing way. <i>'The truth is rarely pure and never simple.'</i>	Situational irony: when the opposite occurs of what one might expect in a situation
Periphrastic dialogue	(of speech or writing) indirect and circumlocutory. <i>'Charming weather today, Miss Fairfax'</i>	Filler	Short, meaningless words (or sounds) we use to fill the little pauses that occur while we decide what we're going to say next.. <i>'like' 'erm'</i>	Dramatic irony: the full significance of a character's words or actions is clear to the audience or reader although unknown to the character.
Repartee	Conversation or speech characterized by quick, witty comments or replies. <i>The repartee between Algernon and Jack establishes a comedic tone in the play's opening Act</i>	Pun	A joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word <i>'I've now realised for the first time in my life the vital Importance of Being Earnest.'</i>	



Non-Sequitur	A random comment that doesn't fit with what is uttered during a conversation. (See: Lady Bracknell)	'Linguistic prowess'	Control or mastery of language, tied to social dominance (See: Lady Bracknell; for the loss of linguistic control, see: Jack)
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