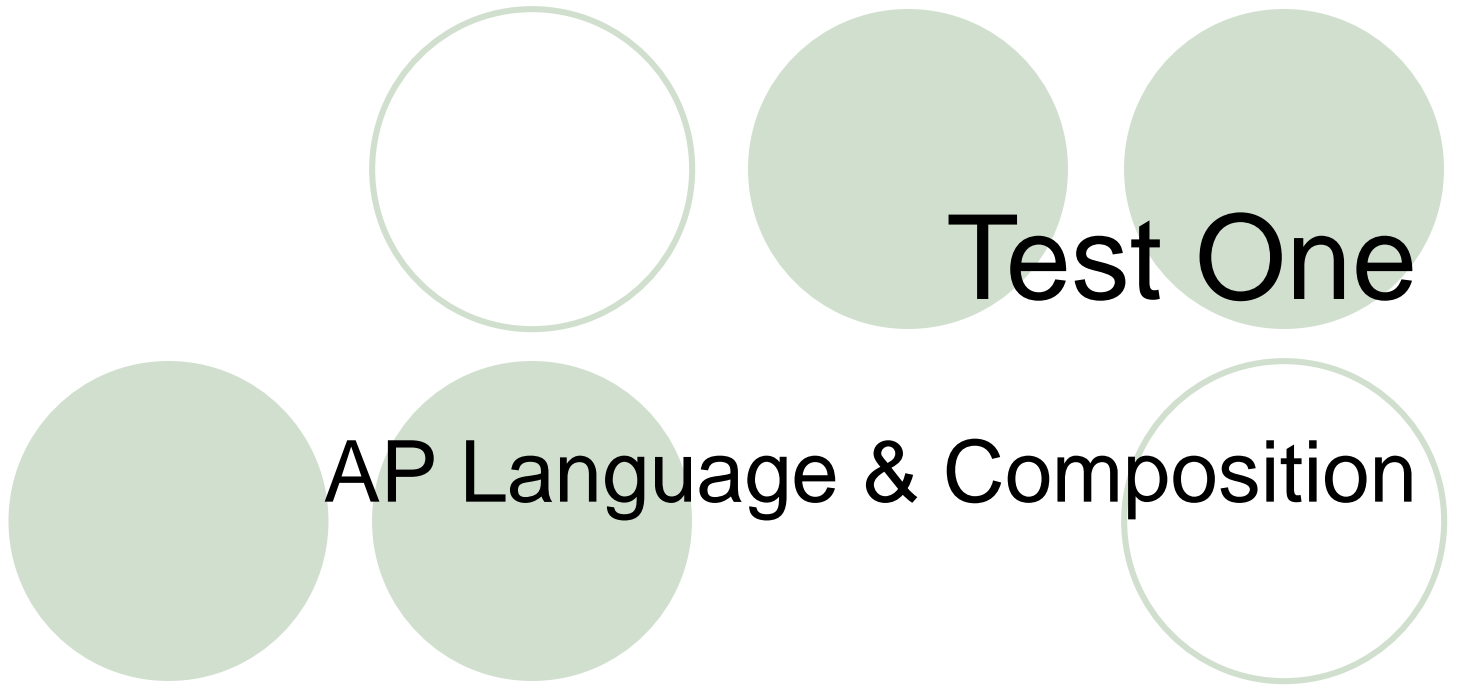




# **Rhetorical Terms to Know and Love**

**AP Language &  
Composition**





# Diction

## Definition:

- Choice of words especially with regard to correctness, clearness, or effectiveness
- You should be able to describe an author's diction (plain, formal, etc.) and understand the ways in which diction can complement the author's purpose.
- Combined with other devices creates the **author's style**



# Syntax

## Definition:

- The way an author chooses to join words into phrases, clauses, and sentences.
- Syntax is similar to diction, but you can differentiate them by thinking of syntax as the groups of words, which diction refers to the individual words.
- Expect to be asked about how the author manipulates syntax to accomplish his/her purpose



# Denotation

## Definition:

- The strict, literal, dictionary definition of a word, devoid of any emotion, attitude, or color.

## Example:

- HOME=one's place of residence



# Connotation

## Definition:

- The nonliteral, associative meaning of a work; the implied, suggested meaning. Connotations may involve ideas, emotions, or attitudes.

## Example:

- HOME= warmth, security, love, peace, happiness, etc.

# Test Two

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AP Language & Composition

# Rhetoric

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## Definition:

- From the Greek for “orator,” this term describes the principles governing the art of writing effectively, eloquently, and persuasively
- See chapter one in *The Language of Composition*



# Ethos, Logos, Pathos

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- Ethos- appeal based on the character/reputation of the speaker/writer
- “As a doctor, I know how important it is to relieve stress and nothing does it better for me than Marlboro. Smoke Marlboro: the doctor’s choice.

# Ethos, Logos, Pathos

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- Logos- appeal based on logic or reason
- “The president’s approval rating is currently at 42%. He must respond to the opinions of the majority.”

# Ethos, Logos, Pathos

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- Pathos- appeal based on emotion
- “For the price of a cup of coffee per day, you can help feed and clothe this family for a year. Won’t you please help these starving children live a better life?”

# Periodic Sentence

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## Definition:

- Sentence whose main clause is withheld until the end

## Example:

- “To that world assembly of sovereign states, the United Nations, our last best hope in an age where the instruments of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace, we renew our pledge of support”

# Cumulative Sentence

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## Definition:

- Sentence that completes the main idea at the beginning of the sentence, and then builds and adds on

# Cumulative Sentence

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Example:

- “But neither can two great and powerful groups of nations take comfort from our present course- both sides overburdened by the cost of modern weapons, both rightly alarmed by the steady spread of the deadly atom, yet both racing to alter that uncertain balance of terror that stays the hand of mankind’s final war.”

# Imperative Sentence

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## Definition:

- Sentence used to command, enjoin, implore, or entreat

## Example:

- “Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems that divide us.”

# Rhetorical Question

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## Definition:

- Figure of speech in the form of a question posed for rhetorical effect rather than for the purpose of getting an answer

## Example:

- “Will you join in that historical effort?”



# Test Three

AP Language & Composition

# Parallelism

- Definition: Comes from Greek roots meaning “beside one another”
- The grammatical or rhetorical framing of words, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs to give structural similarity

# Parallelism

Example:

- “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity...”
- Frequently the effects are to act as an organizing force to attract the reader’s attention, add emphasis and organization, or simply provide a musical rhythm.

# Inversion

- Definition: A change in normal word order, especially placing the verb before noun
- Has the effect of adding emphasis, drawing attention, and causing the reader to consider the idea differently
- Example:  
“Impossible is Nothing”

# Testing Terms

- Juxtaposition:
  - The act or an instance of placing two or more things side by side
  - Often for the purpose of comparing and contrasting
- Example: “The movie was both terrifying and exciting.”

# Testing Terms

- Parenthetical:
  - An amplifying or explanatory word, phrase, or sentence inserted in a passage from which it is usually set off by punctuation
- Example: You are, **on the other hand**, a very talented artist.

# Test Four

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AP Language & Composition

# Allusion

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## Definition:

- ❑ A direct or indirect reference to something which is presumably commonly known, such as an event, book, myth, place, or work of art
  - ❑ Usually references are historical, literary, religious, mythical, or social
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# Allusion

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Example:

- "Calculus was his Achilles heel."
  - "Don't be such a Scrooge."
-

# Analogy

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## Definition:

- A similarity or comparison between two different things or the relationship between them.
  - An analogy can explain something unfamiliar by associating it with or point out its similarity to something more familiar.
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# Analogy

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## Example:

- "A street light is like a star. Both provide light at night, both are in predictable locations, both are overhead, and both serve no function in the daytime."
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# Anecdote

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## Definition:

- Usually a short narrative of an interesting, amusing, or biographical incident
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# Apostrophe

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## Definition:

- a figure of speech in which someone absent or dead or something nonhuman is addressed as if it were alive and present and was able to reply
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# Apostrophe

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Example:

□ “Busy old fool, unruly sun,  
Why dost thou thus,  
Through windows, and through  
curtains call on us?”

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# Test Five

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AP Language & Composition

# Irony

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## Definition:

- The contrast between what is stated explicitly and what is really meant.
- The difference between what appears to be what actually is.



# Irony

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## Example:

- Your boyfriend shows up in ripped up jeans and a stained t-shirt. With a smirk, you say, "Oh! I see you dressed up for our date. We must be going to a posh restaurant."

# Paradox

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## Definition:

- A statement that appears to be self-contradictory or opposed to common sense but upon closer inspection contains some degree of truth or validity.

## Example:

- “To find your life you must lose it.”

# Euphemism

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## Definition:

- A more agreeable or less offensive substitute for a generally unpleasant word or concept
- May be used to adhere to standards of social or political correctness or to add humor or ironic understatement.

# Euphemism

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Example:

- Collateral Damage
- Terminate with Extreme Prejudice
- Tossing your cookies

# Double Entendre

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## Definition:

- A word or phrase having a double meaning, especially when the second meaning is risqué

## Example:

- Textron Inc. Makes Offer to Screw Co. Stockholders (headline)

# Test Six

AP Language & Composition

All previous test terms



# Test Seven

Logical Fallacy Terms



# Test Eight

AP Language & Composition



# [ Antithesis ]

## Definition:

- A rhetorical opposition or contrast of ideas by means of a grammatical arrangement of words, clauses, or sentences

# [ Antithesis ]

## Example:

- “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”
- “They promised freedom but provided slavery.”

# [ Syllogism ]

## Definition:

- A form of deductive reasoning consisting of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion

# [ Syllogism ]

Example:

- All men are foolish (major)
- Mr. Gollon is a man (minor)
- Therefore, Mr. Gollon is foolish. (conclusion)

# Deductive Reasoning

## Definition:

- Reasoning that begins with a general principle and concludes with a specific instance that demonstrates a general principle
- Uses syllogisms

# [ Deductive Reasoning ]

Example:

- All human beings are mortal.
- Socrates is a human being.
- Socrates is mortal.

(syllogism)

# Inductive Reasoning

## Definition:

- Reasoning that begins by citing a number of specific instances or examples and then show how, collectively, they constitutes a general principle

# Inductive Reasoning

Example:

- Everyone I've met from Cranbrook is a snob.
- Millicent is from Cranbrook.
- She must be a snob.





# Test Nine

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AP Language & Composition



# Metonymy

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## Definition:

- A figure of speech that consists of the use of the name of one object or concept for that of another to which it is related or of which it is a part



# Metonymy

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- Example:
- “scepter” for the king, queen, or ruling monarchy
- “The bottle” for alcohol
- “count heads (or noses)” for counting people



# Anaphora

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## Definition:

- The repetition of a word or words at the beginning of successive phrases, clauses, or sentences



# Anaphora

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Example:

- “Not time, not money, not laws, but willing diligence will get this done.”
- “They are masters who instruct us without rod or ferule, without angry words, without clothes or money.”  
(Richard de Bury)



# Anaphora

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Example:

- To think on death it is a misery,  
To think on life it is a vanity,  
To think on the world verily it is,  
To think that here man hath no perfect  
bliss.

Peacham



# Epistrophe

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Definition:

- The counterpart of anaphora
- Repetition of the same word or words at the end of successive phrases, clauses, or sentences



# Epistrophe

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Example:

- “Where affections bear rule, there reason is subdued, honesty is subdued, good will is subdued, and all things else that withstand evil, forever are subdued.” (Wilson)





# Malapropism

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## Definition:

- From mal 'a propos, meaning inappropriate
- An inappropriate word or expression that only sounds like the one intended
- May be used deliberately for humorous effect

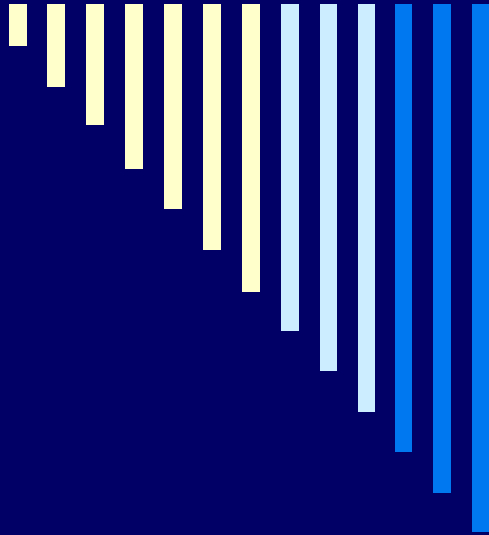


# Malapropism

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Example:

- “We cannot let terrorists and rogue nations hold this nation hostile or hold our allies hostile.” (G.W. Bush)
- “Republicans understand the importance of bondage between a mother and child.” (Dan Quayle)



# Test Ten

**AP Language & Composition**

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# Synecdoche

## Definition:

- A type of metaphor in which any portion, section, or main quality stands for the whole or the thing itself
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# Synecdoche

Example:

- Farmer Jones has two hundred head of cattle and three hired hands.
  - If I had some wheels, I'd put on my best threads and ask Kim to homecoming.
-



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# Zeugma

## Definition:

- Use of two different words in a grammatically similar way but producing different, often incongruous, meanings
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## Zeugma

Example:

- Now the trumpet summons us again- not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need- not as a call to battle, though embattled we are- but a call to bear the burden.
-



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# Satire

- the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, or the like, in exposing, denouncing, or deriding vice, folly, etc
  - a literary composition, in verse or prose, in which human folly and vice are held up to scorn, derision, or ridicule
  - a literary genre comprising such compositions
-

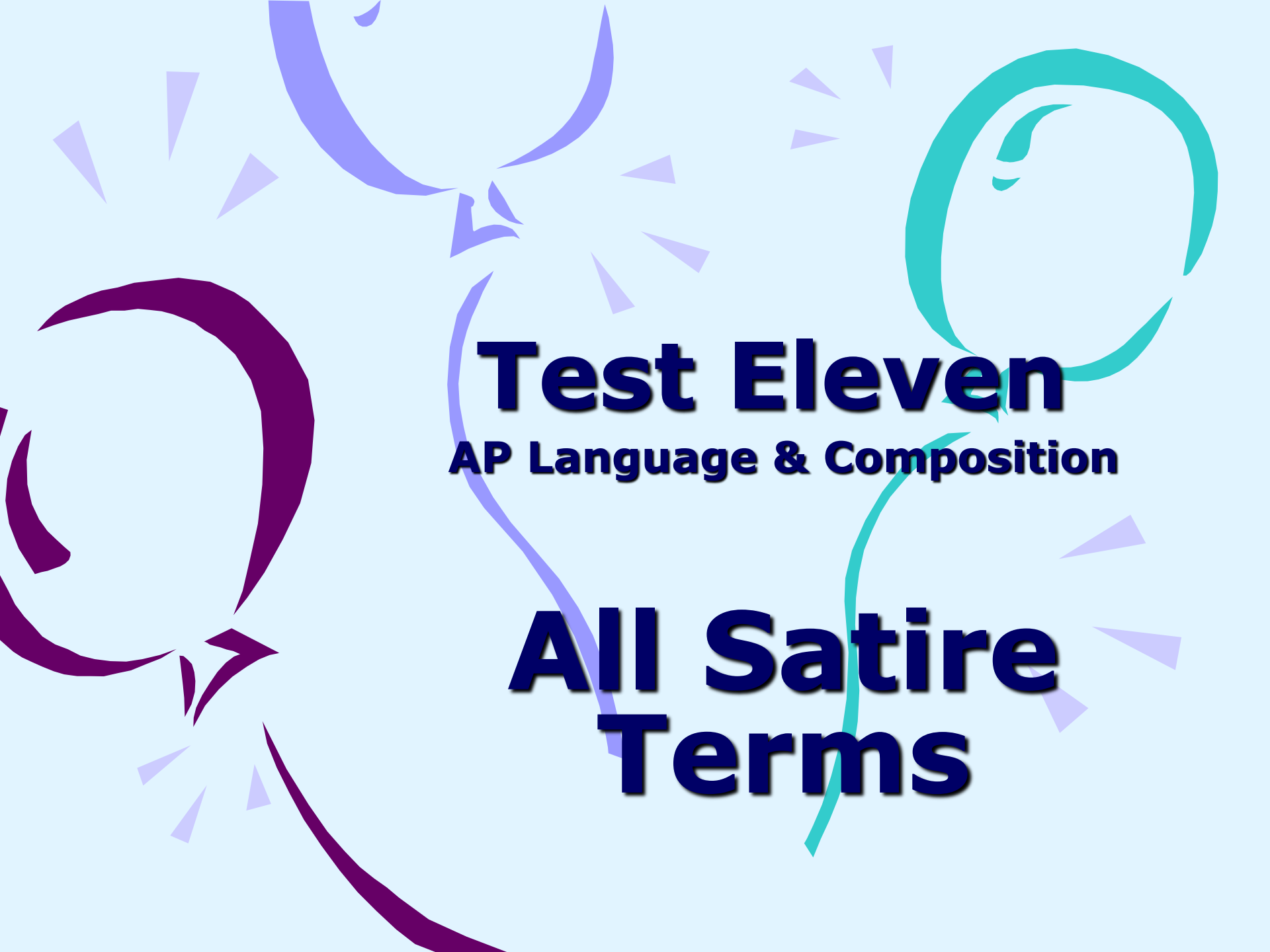


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# Parody

- a humorous or satirical imitation of a serious piece of literature or writing
  - ***Example: his hilarious parody of Hamlet's soliloquy***
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# **Test Eleven**

**AP Language & Composition**

## **All Satire Terms**



# **Test Twelve**

## **AP Language & Composition**

**All previous test terms**