

## 2.1 Alliteration

*Pip and Pep are at an all-you-can-eat buffet. Both Pip and Pep are piling food on their plates and the conversation turns towards a discussion of alliteration.*

Pep: Hey, how in the heck did you heave that helping of ham onto your plate?

Pip: Alliteration.

Pep: Alliteration? How does alliteration help heave ham?

Pip: No, Pep - you're using alliteration.

Pep: I am? I thought I was using the English language.

Pip: *(Talking with a mouthful of imaginary food)* No, Pep. You see, alliteration is another type figurative language.

Pep: *(Slaps palm to forehead)* Oh, no... not that stuff again.

Pip: Hey, don't blame me, Pep. You're the one who keeps using it.

Pep: OK... well what did I do this time?

Pip: You "heaved a helping of ham."

Pep: *(Points to Pip's plate)* Hold on... you're the one heaving ham, ham-heaver.

Pip: No – that phrase "heaving ham" uses the "H" sound in an alliterate way.

Pep: An illiterate way? Are you saying I can't read? How dare you, Pip!

Pip: No, listen Pep. Alliteration is the repetition of the same letter sound in the first syllables in a set of words or phrases. It gets used a lot in poetry.

Pep: How do you mean?

Pip: Well, you said "how in the heck did you heave that helping of ham onto your plate?"

Pep: I said that because that meat slice is as big as your head, and you'll choke if you...

Pip: *(Interrupts)* When you said that phrase, you used the letter "H" to begin 5 different words in the same sentence.

Pep: *(Counting on fingers and whispering)* How, heck, heave, helping and ham.

*(Looks up at Pip with a large smile).*

Pip: Right. Now if I wanted to use alliteration, I could say something like, ummmm... perfect way to point out my preference for pork, Pep.

Pep: What is the alliteration in that sentence?

Pip: Well, isn't it obvious? It's the "P" sound.

Pep: *(Counting on fingers again)* Perfect, point, preference and pork.

Pip: Right, I started four different words with the same sound.

Pep: So, after arguing about alliteration, I've instantly imagined indefinitely integrating it into my many methods of commanding conversations.

Pip: Now, Pep, let's not go overboard with the alliteration. You used the "A," "I," "M," and "C" all in one sentence. That's overkill.

Pep: Good point, Pip. I would rather observe your optimistic opportunism concerning horribly heavy helpings of ham.

Pip: *(Shoves an imaginary ham hock into Pep's mouth)* Put a hock in it!

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