We can understand the following figures of speech by their root words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>figure of speech</th>
<th>root word origin</th>
<th>root meaning</th>
<th>definition</th>
<th>example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>simile</td>
<td>similes (Latin)</td>
<td>like</td>
<td>• Two unlike things are compared using “like” or “as”</td>
<td>• The boy was as mean as a bull.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>metaphor</td>
<td>metaphevin (Greek)</td>
<td>change to bear</td>
<td>• Likening something to an unlike thing to create a comparison or analogy.</td>
<td>• the world is a stage • in the evening of life • a winter of discontent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personification</td>
<td>persone (French)</td>
<td>person, human being</td>
<td>• 1) A person or thing typifying a certain quality or idea that is outstanding • 2) A figure of speech where inanimate objects or abstractions are endowed with human qualities or form</td>
<td>• Mother Theresa is the personification of a person’s ability to love unconditionally. • Time was dragging its feet all day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hyperbole</td>
<td>hyperballein (Latin)</td>
<td>beyond To throw</td>
<td>• An exaggeration or extravagant statement used as a figure of speech</td>
<td>• I’m so hungry I could eat a horse! • Paul Bunyan’s steps were as big as the Grand Canyon!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>analogy</td>
<td>ana Logos (Greek)</td>
<td>according to proportion</td>
<td>• Where correspondence exists in some respects between otherwise dissimilar things.</td>
<td>• The preacher called the Bible a spiritual atlas because, he said, it’s a road map for living.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prepare an overhead and review the figures of speech with a contextual sentence. Then have students match the sentence to the figure of speech. Remember your Greek and Latin roots!

**analogy**
She’s as skinny as a rail.

**hyperbole**
Michael Jordon stands as a real hero figure in sports and life.

**metaphor**
She thinks that she swims well enough to cross the Atlantic Ocean!

**personification**
The setting sun left a slowly darkening sky, like the closing of curtains.

**simile**
Big changes in life are like new births – exciting, but often painful.

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**STEPS FOR STUDENTS**

**Step 1 – Write the Word**

Have students write the vocabulary word in the upper corner of a large index card.
Step 2 – Add a Visual

Have students draw an image that reminds them of this kind of figure of speech.

Step 3 – Write a Definition

Have students write the word’s definition under their drawing.

simile
el simil

a comparison using “as” or “like”
Step 4 – Create a Sentence

Students write a sentence based on the drawing of the figure of speech. They then flip the card over and write just the word in the center.

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**Simile**

e l simil

**A comparison using “as” or “like”**

Getting my sister to do her homework is like pulling teeth!

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Creative Use of the Cards

Pair students up and have them use their cards as flash cards.