Product Overview
This fast-paced, fun card game allows students to practice working with the figurative language concepts of simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, onomatopoeia, alliteration, and irony. The printable card set includes 40 great examples of figurative language in context, 10 ZAP! cards, an answer key, and an instruction sheet. During game play students must correctly identify the figurative language type as they compete to get rid of their stack of cards and avoid getting “Zapped!” An instantly engaging learning activity that your students will want to return to again and again.

Printing Directions
Simply print out sets of cards on pre-perforated 2”x 3.5” business card paper. The first five pages of the document are the actual cards, and the last page provides an image which can be used to print the backs of the cards.

The print-out was designed to be used with pre-perforated cards that will match a 10-card page with 1/2-inch borders, like Avery Business Cards for Laser Printers 5371, 8371 or 8871. (Caution: it is important to use the correct style of business cards)

Hint: I often use Geographics Printable Business Cards (available at Staples or on-line) because they already have a design on one side.

Play
Divide students into groups of 3 to 5 people and play according to directions to review the figurative language concepts. (Recommended for grades 6-9)
Game Directions

Object of the Game: Be the first player to get rid of all your cards.

Game Play:

1) Deal out five cards, face down, to each player. Players are not to look at their stack of cards, but leave them lying face down. (Players may straighten their piles, but NO PEEKING!)

2) The youngest player goes first by picking up the top card from his/her pile. If the card contains a sentence, the player then reads the sentence aloud to the group. Based on the 3 blue answer choices listed at the bottom of each card, the player then declares which type of figurative language is being used in the sentence.

3) The person to the right of the player checks the answer key to see if the correct answer has been given.

4) If the player’s answer is incorrect, the player draws another card from the deck and places it face down at the bottom of his/her pile. Play then passes to the person on his/her left. (Any time a player’s turn is over, the answer key passes to the left also. The answer key should be kept face down until it is used to confirm an answer choice.)

5) If the player’s answer is correct, the player takes the next card from his/her pile, continuing until he/she draws a ZAP card, misses an answer, or runs out of cards.

6) ZAP cards are automatic misses. If a player draws a ZAP card, he/she must draw another card from the deck and loses that turn. The turn then passes to the player on the left.

7) The player to get rid of their pile of cards first is the winner.
Figure It Out
Answer Key

1. simile
2. simile
3. simile
4. simile
5. metaphor
6. metaphor
7. simile
8. metaphor
9. metaphor
10. hyperbole
11. hyperbole
12. hyperbole
13. personification
14. onomatopoeia
15. hyperbole
16. hyperbole
17. irony
18. personification
19. personification
20. personification
21. personification
22. hyperbole
23. irony
24. hyperbole
25. simile
26. hyperbole
27. metaphor
28. personification
29. metaphor
30. personification
31. metaphor
32. metaphor
33. personification
34. alliteration
35. personification
36. metaphor
37. alliteration
38. onomatopoeia
39. alliteration
40. alliteration
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
His breath smelled like rotting logs in a swamp.

Personification  Simile
Onomatopoeia

When Cam noticed the gigantic wasp’s nest, he took off like a horsefly from a swatter.

Simile  Alliteration
Metaphor

Felicia’s eyes went as big as headlights.

Alliteration  Onomatopoeia
Simile

Those girls are like two peas in a pod.

Simile  Alliteration
Metaphor

Just look at the way Sam is eating. He’s such a pig.

Simile  Alliteration
Metaphor

The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog’s bath.

Personification  Simile
Metaphor

“I feel like a limp dishrag,” Essence whined as she exited the steaming taxi.

Hyperbole  Simile
Ironic

You are the sunshine of my life.

Simile  Personification
Metaphor

The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it after a long day.

Metaphor  Alliteration
Onomatopoeia

The groom thought his heart would crack a rib the way it was pounding.

Hyperbole  Irony
Personification
11 Her glittering crown of diamonds was so brilliant that the sun ducked behind a cloud in shame.

Personification    Alliteration
Hyperbole

12 At Leatherbee’s the banana split is so big you practically need a steam shovel to eat it.

Simile    Hyperbole
Onomatopoeia

13 The old car grumbled as grandpa tried to start the engine.

Simile    Personification
Alliteration

14 The room buzzed with excitement as everyone waited for the President to arrive.

Simile    Personification
Onomatopoeia

15 “Your clothes were so stinky we had to put on gas masks to pick them up,” Grandpa laughed.

Hyperbole    Simile
Personification

16 His smile was so wide he’d have to break it into sections to fit it through a doorway.

Hyperbole    Personification
Irony

17 Mr. Richards, an 89-year old man, won the PowerBall lottery for $7.8 million and died in his sleep that same day.

Irony    Personification
Metaphor

18 Shivering under the covers, Sadie grimaced in terror as the thunder hammered her window and jarred the ground.

Simile    Personification
Hyperbole

19 The fog comes in on little cat feet and crouches quietly along the bay.

Metaphor    Onomatopoeia
Personification

20 A light snow began to fall, whispering through the trees and tapping us on the shoulders.

Irony    Personification
Onomatopoeia
21  It was like the end of the world had returned, eager to finish its work.

   Personification  Simile
   Metaphor

22  “Your grandmother must be as old as the Pyramids,” JoAnn whispered to Jolene as the white haired woman hobbled up the driveway.

   Hyperbole  Personification
   Irony

23  A man falls over a giant waterfall and survives, only to take a shower where he slips on the soap and dies from trauma.

   Onomatopoeia  Irony
   Hyperbole

24  My sister wears so much make-up that she loses 30 pounds when she takes it off at night.

   Alliteration  Hyperbole
   Metaphor

25  High above, a silver plane crossed the sky, silent as a spider.

   Personification  Simile
   Metaphor

26  “I have a million things to do today,” complained Mrs. Gilbert as she loaded the twins into the car.

   Simile  Hyperbole
   Irony

27  The war between the thunder and lightning raged on through the night.

   Alliteration  Irony
   Metaphor

28  Although the janitor twisted the key vigorously, the old rusty lock was stubborn and refused to open.

   Personification  Onomatopoeia
   Irony

29  He slithered into town quietly so no one would notice when he dug his fangs in and slowly poisoned their minds.

   Metaphor  Onomatopoeia
   Personification

30  The wind stood up and gave a shout. He whistled on his fingers and kicked the withered leaves about

   Personification  Simile
   Onomatopoeia
31
The seabirds glide down to the water—
stub-winged cargo planes—land awkwardly,
taxi with fluttering wings and
stamping paddle feet, then dive.

Irony      Metaphor
Alliteration

32
Your browser is the doorway to the internet.

Alliteration     Hyperbole
Metaphor

33
The bushes, catching against his legs,
cried out harshly as their sprays
were torn from the barks of trees.

Simile     Personification
Hyperbole

34
My legs felt like melting butter in
a hot pan as I stood in line for
the Twister of Terror.

Alliteration     Hyperbole
Metaphor

35
The smoke from the fire seeped into
the room, and this flimsy chimney of clay
and sticks made endless threats
to set ablaze the whole establishment.

Simile     Personification
Hyperbole

36
Her elderly fingers were thin gnarled
branches, twisting oddly from the stem
of her palms.

Simile     Personification
Metaphor

37
It laughs a lovely whiteness,
And whitely whirs away

Alliteration     Irony
Onomatopoeia

38
The whizzing arrow whistled
past Robin’s shoulder and plunked
into the tree trunk.

Ironic     Simile
Onomatopoeia

39
The baker busily kneaded the bread.

Alliteration     Personification
Metaphor

40
Once upon a midnight dreary, while
I pondered weak and weary.

Hyperbole     Personification
Alliteration
FIGURE IT OUT!
FIGURE IT OUT!
FIGURE IT OUT!
FIGURE IT OUT!
FIGURE IT OUT!
FIGURE IT OUT!
FIGURE IT OUT!
FIGURE IT OUT!