

Literary Devices

Literary devices can be used in a variety of text types **to create effects**, e.g. to add emphasis, describe vividly, evoke associations and persuade readers. *Use the literary devices provided to spice up the writing.*

Topic

Although studies show electric cars are more environmentally friendly than petrol cars, less than 3% of all vehicles sold in 2020 worldwide were electric.

Write a letter to the editor of *Hong Kong Post*.

- Discuss why sales of electric vehicles are so low.
- Suggest what can be done to attract more people to drive these vehicles.

Writing topic taken from Paper 2 of the 2021 HKDSE English Language Examination ©HKEAA

1. Opening

In recent years, manufacturers of electric cars have been keen to promote their products. However, less than 3% of all vehicles sold in 2020 worldwide were electric. While petrol cars continue to sell like hot cakes, electric cars remain unpopular among drivers (are like stale bread which no one is interested in). They can only sit idly/silently/sadly in the companies' showroom, longing/waiting desperately/nervously/endlessly to be brought home by drivers. In the following, I am writing to discuss why electric vehicles are regarded as undesirable by drivers and suggest some measures to make them more attractive.

Hyperbole
Can you exaggerate the unpleasant experience to catch readers' attention (e.g. using superlatives such as 'the worst xxx')?

2. Body Paragraph

To many drivers, petrol cars outcompete electric cars in terms of convenience. While drivers of petrol cars can simply fuel their vehicles in any petrol filling station when necessary, accurate estimation and advance planning on the time and locations of charging is required for drivers of electric cars to avoid interruptions to their journeys. This is especially vital when drivers are going on the highways or taking intercity trips as stopping in the middle of the journey unexpectedly is definitely unpleasant (the worst nightmare for all drivers in the world). That explains why the sales of electric cars have remained flat (have hit a wall/reached a bottleneck) despite the efforts of governments worldwide and car manufacturers to promote the use of electric cars.

Comparison (simile & metaphor)
Can you convey the meaning of the phrase 'have remained flat' by making an appropriate comparison?

3. Closing

To conclude, driving electric cars is a good alternative to driving petrol cars. It is economical, energy-saving and environmentally friendly/eco-friendly. Clearly, driving electric vehicles will become more attractive if governments worldwide provide more financial incentives, if car manufacturers succeed in expanding the battery capacity, and if power companies install more quick chargers in the public charging network. From now on, why don't we buy a better car to build a brighter world?

Notes: Parallelism may appear in the form of words of the same part of speech or repeated structures.

Notes: Alliteration is used.

In the closing paragraph, the following literary devices can be used to reinforce important points/messages:

- Parallelism (e.g. Driving electric cars will be more attractive if..., if..., and if...)
- Alliteration (e.g. buy a better car)
- Rhetorical questions (e.g. Why don't we switch to electric cars now?)

Alliteration and rhetorical questions are used particularly in the last sentence to catch attention or provoke thinking. Can you complete the last paragraph using at least one of these literary devices?

★Teachers' notes: This activity sheet is designed for illustration and practice only. Students should be reminded to use the literary devices appropriately and judiciously. Overuse or inappropriate use of these devices may render the writing unnatural.

Comparison (simile & metaphor)
The idiomatic expression 'sell like hot cakes' is a simile used to describe things sold in large quantities quickly.

What similar expressions can be created to describe the unpopularity of electric cars? Can you think of a kind of food that is so unappealing that no one will buy?

Personification
Can you add human qualities to the unsold electric cars? You may describe how they sit and feel while waiting to be bought.