

Zeugma

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- A zeugma is the joining of two parts of a sentence together through the use of a word or phrase. It is a figure of speech that is used when a verb or adjective modifies two or more nouns to form one idea. Zeugma is often used to add emotion, produce a level of shock, create a thoughtful effect, or add emotion.
 - **Example 1:** "You are free to **execute** your laws, and your citizens, as you see fit." - *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.
 - The word "execute" applies to both "laws" and "citizens." The sentence is saying that "You are free to execute your laws and execute your citizens."
 - **Example 2:** Yet time and her aunt **moved slowly** — and her patience and her ideas were nearly worn out before the tete-a-tete was over." - *Jane Austen*
 - **Example 3:** The storm **sank** my boat and my dreams.
 - Now, the feelings of sadness over the loss of a treasured boat and lifelong dream are more pronounced than something literal like, "My boat sank in the storm. I couldn't realize my dreams."

Can you spot the zeugma in these sentences?


- On our first date, I held my breath and the car door for her.
- All over Ireland, the farmers grew potatoes, barley and bored.
- She had already exhausted her kids and her patience by the end of the first day of summer vacation.

Prozeugma

- A zeugma in which the yoke or governing word is at the **beginning** of the sentence, **before** the governed parts.
 - **Example 1:** He took his hat, and his vacation.
 - **Example 2:** While at church Andy played guitar, Aaron piano, and James violin.

Mesozeugma

- A zeugma in which the yoke or governing word is in the **middle** of the sentence, **between** the governed parts.
 - **Example 1:** He works nights, I days.
 - **Example 2:** First the door locked, and then his jaw.

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Hypozeugma

- A zeugma in which the yoke or governing word is at the **end** of the sentence, **after** the governed parts.
 - **Example 1:** His clothes, his books, and his dignity were lost.
 - **Example 2:** Hours, days, weeks, months, and years seemed to slip away.

Diazeugma

- A zeugma in which a single subject governs multiple subsequent verbs.
 - **Example 1:** Müller receives the ball, dribbles, dodges the defender, shoots, and scores!
 - **Example 2:** The Romans destroyed Numantia, razed Carthage, obliterated Corinth, overthrew Fregellae. —Ad Herennium



References

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