

AUTISM & SENSORY DIFFERENCES

to be
like me

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE



Watch this video of Michael, a person with autism, talking about concrete and figurative language.

What is concrete language?

Concrete language refers to objects or actions that can be observed. The meaning of concrete language is often stable and raises few questions. (Example: spoon, green, hot)

What is figurative language?

Figures of speech go beyond the literal (concrete) meaning of words. Figures of speech can include metaphors, idioms, similes, and allusions. Figures of speech can vary between cultures and languages and often have to be taught.

Name: _____

Figurative Language

Directions: The following paragraph is full of figurative language. Can you rewrite the figurative language phrases using concrete language? What do these idioms mean? Sometimes when we talk to someone with autism, we might have to try to reduce the amount of figurative language that we use.

When my friend Emma told me that she had tickets to see my favorite band this weekend, I **went bananas!** Even better, she had three tickets so our friend Olivia could go too! The three of us are practically **joined at the hip**. Emma wanted to keep the concert a surprise for Olivia's birthday, so she told me not to **spill the beans**. At school the next day, Olivia asked me what I was doing on Friday night and **I froze**. When I didn't answer, she asked me if a **cat had got my tongue**. I was **quick on my feet** and told her that my mom said that I had to stay home to clean the house... just a little fib. Keeping this secret was going to be **a piece of cake**. Friday came and **I had butterflies in my stomach**. I couldn't believe that tonight was the concert. That afternoon when we brought Olivia a birthday cake and told her about the concert, it completely **blew her mind**. She couldn't quit jumping up and down! We had a fantastic night. The concert was amazing and there's nothing better than spending time with your best friends. We were all **over the moon!**

went bananas -

joined at the hip -

spill the beans -

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