

Topic: Allusion / Illusion

Target students: Junior Secondary school

Duration: 40 minutes

Corpus used: Corpus of Contemporary American English

(accessed on <https://www.wordandphrase.info/>)

Group 2

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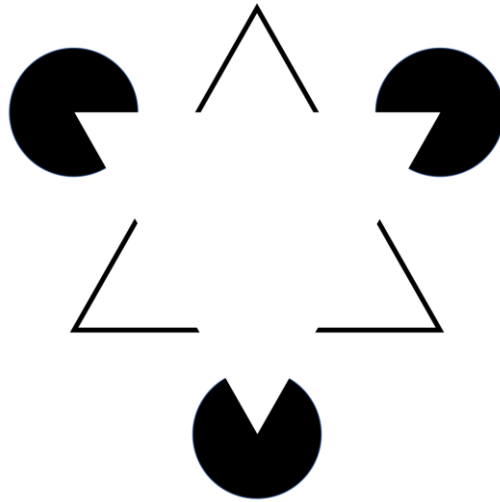
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Activity 1: Introduction



Is the ground sagging?



How many triangles are there in this picture?

What animal(s) do you think of when you see these adjectives?

Quiet	
Busy	
Slow	
Cunning	
Gentle	
Loyal	

In fact, the floor is flat in the first picture, and there are no triangles (three lines connected) in the second picture. Our brain tricks us to see things that are not true. We call these **optical illusions**.

Instead of directly pointing out their characteristics, writers often refer to characters as animals to illustrate their characteristics. This figure of speech is called **allusion**.

Look at the definitions of the two words from the dictionary below.

illusion

noun

UK  /ɪˈluː.ʒən/ US  /ɪˈluː.ʒən/



C2 [C or U]

an idea or belief that is not true:

allusion

noun [C]

UK  /əˈluː.ʒən/ US  /əˈluː.ʒən/



something that is said or written that is intended to make you think of a particular thing or person:

We now know what these two words mean. But do you know how to use them?

Activity 2: Understanding usage through corpus

Today, we will learn how to tell the two words apart by looking at how they are used in real life.

We will look at the *Corpus of Contemporary American English*. A corpus is a database of texts from many sources, such as newspapers, TV shows, and academic journals. By searching keywords, we can observe how words are used in different places. The following are places where you can find the word *allusion* and *illusion* in fiction:

" and " low " in cultural production , while such	allusions	also attempt to	renounce , through sexual parody , the
, its loyalty to the parochial . Buruma suggests that cultural	allusions	in novels endanger	their universality . But that local density
on scriptural information , exhibited in numerous Biblical	allusions	interspersed throughout the	poem . Moulsworth 's striking
a fundamental component of the blues . Baldwin 's Old Testament	allusions	notwithstanding lineage	for African Americans bears little
spiritual father in heaven . # Another unobtrusive Biblical	allusion	occurs in line	24 . In lines 21 through 30 , Moulsworth
' Rosetta stone/ and it was in the grip of strange	allusions	that I went	back to lean on the bar opposite Milt .
. Although the reference here is fairly obvious , Moulsworth 's	allusion	to Acts 17:28	makes it clear that " He " is God
squire (hereafter UUS , pronounced-if you will forgive the	allusion	to bridge-and-tunnel	New-York English that surrounds me so-
again , and said goodbye , adding , as a courteous	allusion	to her earlier	request for a phone number , " Call me
scar below his right eye that she found fascinating in its	allusion	to his unknowable	childhood . There was no tiner scar on his
" problems " to which Megally had referred to were an	allusion	to Leal 's	previous testimony at the Sixth District criminal
that had sprouted into more detail , whether there was an	allusion	to Life Now	hiding within her description of Life Then . Like
the music , merging the terms of descent with a metaphoric	allusion	to Parker 's	personal fate . # In jazz , a more
of the outfit.1 # 1 One of many instances of an	allusion	to the Bert	backstory , most of which were trimmed back in
ashamed . There was something in her voice that conveyed an	allusion	to those men	, but we did n't know whether it was
comparison to the abundance of Ignatius 's . She only made	allusions	to what I	but of course , and she happened to fall
By some tacit consent , throughout the voyage little or no	allusion	was made to	it , especially by the mates . , the
in serious difficulty if I did not appear . Your coded	allusion	was not lost	on me . " " My cable merely mentioned
# Most important , however , Louise Labe concludes with an	allusion	which restates the	generative quality of writing in terms which
, contemplating objects and events , pursuing literary	allusions	with scholarly	anguor . The average reader , hustling to get his

Palm Beach , Mother claims she is leaving the world of	illusion	and entering reality .	" Rich people here are richer than rich
image of another ? Why do misunderstandings about affection ,	illusions	and solidarity always	begin with the almost purely anatomical
of introspection . At first I thought it was an optical	illusion	created by my	nearsightedness . I had to wait a long time
, professional or amateur . He made no distinction between	illusion	designed to entertain	, or to convey a deeper truth , and
, an irreproducible and finally inexplicable occurrence . The	illusion	is its own	litmus-test , and its own judge . A self-validating
have been banned from the surface P184 because they lack even	illusion	magic I	There are stories that they have an awful society in
1077 Smoke and Mirrors Short Fictions and	illusions	Nicholas Was	older than sin , and his beard could grow
the floor . He brought in a fan to give the	illusion	of a breeze	, # Later , he carried a fist-sized stone
she undertook with all the good taste and shrewd eye for	illusion	of a Parisienne	. Underneath her expensive , buttery-smooth
. The subsidiary program that allowed her to move among the	illusions	of Bright Illimit	was undoubtedly keeping her out of trouble ,
different one every time , as she seems to prefer the	illusion	of ceaseless novelty	in her lovers , choosing not to recognize me
, so her long skirt and hidden feet gave her the	illusion	of floating I	The woman came to stop in front of us
three rows back -- far enough away to give me the	illusion	of privacy I	but close enough that he could come to my
light was poor . But Lawrence loved the privacy , the	illusion	of self-sufficiency I	and when he brought Hermia up to his room
industry and a circus . They both try to produce an	illusion	of something for	the sake of the audience , and they both
a stereopticon . # As happens in that moment when the	illusion	of three dimensions	obtains , Mr. Albemarle felt himself
artificial intelligence had adapted to me , too-which made the	illusion	seem mutual and	all the more real . But , now that
dream dissipated , and for a moment he mourned it .	illusion	was better than	reality , right now . Scylla entered the room
, we 're bummed . EDWINA BLIGHT Prosperity is an	illusion	I but I	protect my darlings from harsh truths . I must
The approaching wall looked rock-solid . I knew that was an	illusion	I but my	body knew what it saw , and it clenched

1. Circle all the noun & noun phrases that contain "allusion" or "illusion" in the sentence.
2. Do you see any relationship between them?
3. Based on what you have observed, what is the difference between *allusion* and *illusion*?

Activity 3: Application

1. Try to finish the cloze passage with these two words and discuss with your groupmates why you chose the answer. You may need to change the form of the word to make it grammatically correct.

Allusion	Illusion
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A magician came to our school to perform today. I enjoyed the performance very much even though I know it is just an _____. During the show, he _____ life as the _____ he stages everyday.

“Why?” we asked.

“Life is like a rollercoaster. Do you always hear this _____? I think we should first remember the most important things in life are not tangible. We may think we will always be rich, but it becomes an _____ when we lose all the money. We may think everyone loves us, but one day we will find ourselves all alone in the world.”

He explained further by _____ our lives to a circle. “We come to the world with nothing. We leave the world with nothing, despite whatever we have done on earth. We all know about this _____, but we still don’t do much about it. Isn’t this the ultimate _____?”

2. Listen to the song *Underbite* by Protest The Hero.
Have a listen and discuss the following questions with your classmates.

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/2HjTs-y-ZQo>

[Strong language in the first sentence and throughout the spoken verse of the MV. May not be suitable for younger students; start from 2:10 if strong language is to be avoided]

“An **illusion** seldom spoken. An understanding between you and I
that the ground that you stand on is somehow less than mine.

An **illusion** to a broken home,
left on the street and chilled to the bone.

So hey, we still feeling good?

Now you comprehend our complex relationship, consumer/consumed.

You're just some stupid kid and I'm a megalomaniac.”

1. What does the *illusion* refer to?
2. By saying the situation is *an allusion to a broken home*, what does the narrator mean? What emotion(s) is he conveying?
3. Look back on your life. Are there things in your life that seem to be actually illusions? Try to complete the sentences below. You can refer to the lyrics and the following word bank for ideas.

Mentioned recognized heard of understood accepted believed thought of
Fire water river seaside birds music forest
Happiness love relationship sadness hope
Photograph movie symphony abandoned cold
Volatile erupt desperate blank black

An illusion seldom _____ . A(n) _____

An allusion to _____

So _____

Activity 4: Summary

Match the choices.

Allusion	Illusion
_____	_____

- a) An hidden expression or indirect reference.
- b) An instance of a wrong perception of a sensory experience.

Now, are you familiar with the use of allusion and illusion? Try to write an experience when you visited a museum and include the words *allusion* and *illusion*. Write about 100 words. Share with your friends and family about what you have written. You can even invite them for another visit!
