



# Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which words are replaced with different words that are associated with or related to them. The word *metonymy* comes from the Greek phrase *metōnymía*, which means “a change of name.” Most metonymy are only a part of the larger whole.

**EXAMPLE:** The pen is mightier than the sword.

The word “pen” is a metonym for writing (words). The word “sword” is a metonym for military force. The pen represents writing (words), and the sword represents military force. The meaning of the saying is that words/ideas have more power to influence people than military force.

**DIRECTION:** Explain the metonym in each sentence.

1. I offered to give my father a hand cleaning out the garage.

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2. My neighbor worked himself to the grave.

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3. I bought a new Picasso at auction yesterday.

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