

## Alliteration

A series of words beginning with the same consonant, used to emphasise a point or create a mood.

Tongue twisters are an obvious example:

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Try saying that ten times fast!

Using alliteration with certain letters can really build a mood, like how the W s in 'whispering wind' create a setting that is soft and airy, or the harsh R's in 'raging river rapids' help us picture the fast-flowing and ruthless water.

Alliteration can get your point across by appealing to a reader's sense of hearing.

"The bass notes boomed into his very bones"

Here, the alliteration of the letter "B" mimics the deep sound of the bass and emphasises the volume of the music. The repeated 'B' sound suggests a musical rhythm we can feel when we read the sentence.

In the poem 'My Rival's House' by Liz Lochhead, whose name is also alliterative, the speaker is visiting her new lover's mother for the first time.

She is served tea with: "Silver sugar-tongs and silver salver"

Lochhead's mother-in-law is trying to intimidate her by serving tea on decorative silverware.

The repetition of the letter S almost sounds like the hiss of a snake, suggesting the threat that lies underneath the shiny surface of this seemingly harmless scenario.

Try topping off your text with the terrific technique that is alliteration!