



Worksheet 11a

Antithesis

Antithesis: placing opposite ideas next to one another to create a powerful effect

Activity 1: Read the extract from *The Young King* by Oscar Wilde below. In this extract, a young lord, who is about to be crowned King, has a dream in which a poor weaver makes a speech to him. Underline all the examples of antithesis you can find. The first example has been underlined for you.

'The land is free', said the young King, 'and thou art no man's slave'.
 'In war,' answered the weaver, 'the strong make slaves of the weak and in peace the rich make slaves of the poor. We must work to live, and they give us such mean wages that we die. We toil for them all day long, and they heap up their gold in their coffers. We tread out the grapes, and another drinks the wine. We sow the corn, and our own board is empty. We have chains, though no eye beholds them; and we are slaves, though men call us free.'



Activity 2: Construct your own examples of antithesis. Use the sentence starters to help you complete the first two, then add another two examples of your own. You can base the last two examples of antithesis on the same topic of rich versus poor, or on another topic of your choice.

1. They have a luxurious common room, but we

2. They have the freedom to wear their own clothes, and we

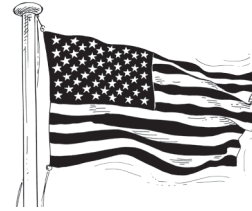
3.

4.



Worksheet 11b

Speech analysis and planning



Activity 1: Identify examples of antithesis in the extract from 'Barack Obama's campaign speech' (*Student's Book*, p. 54) and add them to the table below.

Activity 2: Locate examples of the other sentence features in the extract from 'Barack Obama's campaign speech' and complete the second column in the table below.

Activity 3: Brainstorm examples of sentence features you might use in your own speech and complete the third column in the table.

| Technique | Examples from Obama's speech | Examples for my own persuasive speech |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| antithesis | | |
| repetition | 'right here, right now' | |
| imperative verbs (commands) | | |
| short sentences | | |
| connectives for emphasis/clarity | | |
| subordinate clauses beginning with 'if' | 'if you will join me in this improbable quest' | |

Masterclass 11: Shaping sentences for effect

SMART ENGLISH PROGRESS IN AFs: **WRITING AF5**

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