

The uses of the imagery

You may now the five types of imagery by now. But what are some of the ways that you can use imagery even more effectively? Let's recap what the five types of imagery are first of all.

1. Visual - sights
2. Auditory - sounds
3. Olfactory - smells
4. Tactile – touch/feel
5. Gustatory - taste

SYNASTHESIA

Simple as that. But what can be more powerful than using them? Using them together and mixing them together. How do we do that?

It's called synesthesia, and it is actually a medical condition - Synesthesia is a neurological condition in which stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway (for example, hearing) leads to automatic, involuntary experiences in a second sensory or cognitive pathway (such as vision). Simply put, when one sense is activated, another unrelated sense is activated at the same time.

John Keats famously used Synesthesia – basically, he attributes the traits of one sense to another sense.

Example = In some melodious plot / of beechen green (stanza I – Ode to Nightingale)

Here, melodious is an adjective which usually describes a sound, voice, or song. It is then an auditory imagery.

But it is used to describe something visual – a plot of beechen green. A green vegetation. A visual imagery.

And again -

TASTING of Flora and the country green,
Dance, and Provencal song, and sunburnt mirth!
O for a beaker of the warm South, (stanza II)

Tasting flora mixes visual imagery with gustatory imagery.

Sunburnt mirth mixes human feeling (mirth) with tactile imagery (sunburnt).

Beaker is a container and here implies gustatory imagery, which is mixed with a place - location.

Likewise, you can mix up the types of imagery in a creative and appropriate manner.

Here are some other examples I would give.

- The champagne sky tasted sweet and calming to his eyes.
- The colours were sonorous; they soothed the senses.
- Her repulsion felt scalding hot in his heart.
- The bright and radiant music filled the entire hall.

Now try writing some of your own – here are some prompts. Don't worry if it takes time – it is rather challenging.

1. The colours of the rainbow.

2. The mist in the hills.

3. The valley spread out in the horizon.

Another use of **GUSTATORY Imagery** is to talk about different characteristics/attitudes of people.

Gustatory – Bitter – Sweet – Saccharine – Sour –

Tactile - Cool – Warm-hearted – Cold-hearted – Fiery

Now think about how you can use the above words to describe people!