Alliteration

# A definition

The repetition in adjacent or closely connected words with the same consonant sound, normally in stressed syllables

# Purposes

### to call attention to specific words

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the **c**olor of their skin but by the **c**ontent of their **ch**aracter." —Martin Luther King, Jr.

### to create a pleasant, rhythmic effect

"We **s**aw the **s**ea **s**ound **s**ing, we heard the **s**alt **s**heet tell." —Dylan Thomas

### to add to a mood by repeating, among others,

* soft, melodious sounds to help create a calm, peaceful, or dignified mood

*"A* ***m****oist young* ***m****oon hung above the* ***m****ist of a neighboring* ***m****eadow."* —Vladimir Nabokov

* harsh, hard sound for an excited or tense mood

*"Step forward, Tin Man. You dare to come to me for a heart, do you? You* ***c****linking,* ***c****lanking,* ***c****lattering* ***c****ollection of* ***c****aliginous junk...And you, Scarecrow, have the effrontery to ask for a* ***b****rain! You* ***b****illowing* ***b****ale of* ***b****ovine fodder!" —The Wizard of Oz*

### to make a phrase more easily memorable, often for marketing:

PayPal, Krispy Kreme, Chuckee Cheese’s, Best Buy, Pittsburgh Pirates, Pittsburgh Penguins

# Practice

### Write an alliterative phrase about a snake. Include three or four words beginning with the /s/ sound so that the phrase simulates the sound of a hissing snake. The words themselves need not have any relation to snakes. Shakespeare creates that sound in the opening of his Sonnet 146, a poem about his soul:

Poor **s**oul, the **c**enter of my **s**inful earth,

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### Write an alliterative phrase each for two of the following. You do not need to use the word here in your phrase.

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| rain | a noisy car | wind |
| a musical instrument | shoes or footsteps | bells in a tower |

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