Metonymy and Synecdoche

**Metonymy** = replacing the name of a thing with the name of something else with which it is closely associated; stand-ins for other words

**Synecdoche** = a part of something is used to refer to the whole entity, or a whole entity is used to refer to part of something.

WATCH THE VIDEO: Metonymy and Synecdoche- Hollywood and the Crown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqZuqKWNsFo>

List the three examples of metonymy given at the beginning of this video.

List three examples of synecdoche from video.

**Metonymy and synecdoche are figures of speech and are considered literary devices** that serve as colorful ways to take the ordinary and dress it up in something poetic or beautiful. They can be used to create imagery for the reader.

**METONYMY** is using one word to represent a closely related idea.

For example: I got a letter from the White House.

We understand that you actually got a letter from the President of the United States.

Below are several examples of metonymy that are underlined. For each underlined phrase or word, write which concept or word it replaces or refers to in the blank following. The first one has been done for you.

1. The buses are on strike.

Bus drivers

1. The kettle boils.

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1. The only solution is going under the knife tomorrow.

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1. The Crown has lost much of its power in today’s society.

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1. The pen is mightier than the sword.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. "Aragorn: You have my sword.  
   Legolas: And you have my bow.  
   Gimli: And my axe." - Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, directed by Peter Jackson

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1. He's got *a Picasso*.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. A Mercedes rear-ended *me*.  
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**Synecdoche Versus Metonymy**

Below are some sentences which contain either synecdoche or metonymy.

In the blank beside the sentence, indicate whether it uses synecdoche or metonymy.

Underline the synecdoche or metonymy in each sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I heard my piano teacher talk about playing on the ivories.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I drank the glass to its bottom.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I had a visit from Scotland Yard.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I hate American TV.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I was arrested by the police.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Vanier is playing volleyball against us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Britain and France were at war.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Put your “John Hancock” here.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_All eyes were on him.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The team needs some new blood if it’s going to win next season.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Let's take my new ride out for a spin.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Check out my new wheels.

\_\_\_\_\_"Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears." *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare