Metaphor

Literary (novel, original)

• Time is a flowing river. Happy those who allow themselves to be carried, unresisting, with the current. (Christopher Morley, Where the Blue Begins)
• Time is the school in which we learn. Time is the fire in which we burn. (Delmore Schwartz, “Calmly We Walk Through This April’s Day”)
• Initially, I was unaware that time, so boundless at first blush, was a prison. (Vladimir Nabokov, Speak, Memory)
• Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils. (Hector Berlioz)

Conventional metaphors

• Time flies.
• I have to finish this paper; I’m racing against time.
• Spend your time wisely.
• You’re wasting my time
Personification

- Life has cheated me.
- The collapse of the economy is our biggest enemy right now.
- I put in new spark plugs and my car is really happy now.
- Starbucks has been drinking up all the competition.

Metonomy

One entity refers to another
- She owns a *Picasso*.
- *San Diego* beat *Oakland* last season.
- She’s really into ballet.

Part for the whole
- Do you have wheels? [a car]
- We need some new blood in this organization. [new people]
- Get your ass over here! [all of you]

Conceptual vs. Linguistic Metaphors

**TIME IS MONEY** (conceptual metaphor)
You’re wasting my time.
This gadget will save you hours of work.
(linguistic metaphors)

**ARGUMENT IS WAR** (conceptual metaphor)
She attacked every point of my argument.
I’ve never won an argument with her.
(linguistic metaphors)
Live vs. Dead metaphors

- He broke his mother's expensive vase. (literal)
- You’re breaking my soul and my spirit. (live metaphor)
- Don’t try breaking that contract or you’ll be sued. (dead metaphor)
- My son wants a pet mouse. (literal)
- Are you a man or a mouse? (live metaphor)
- I need a new mouse for my computer. (dead metaphor)