(1) I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

Figurative - This sentence expresses the degree of hunger because a person really wouldn't eat a horse. Right? 😊

(2) Her eyes were bigger than her stomach.

Figurative – eyes are not bigger than a stomach. This sentence is used when you serve yourself more food than you can eat because you were very hungry.

(3) The toast jumped out of the toaster.

Figurative – toasts don’t jump out of toasters. They do pop out of toasters though.

(4) I've told you a hundred times to clean your room!

Figurative/literal - This will almost always be figurative - it may feel like you have told your child to clean their room a hundred times, but it is usually an exaggeration. The exclamation gives the indication that you are tired of repeating yourself and are now impatient. This is probably recent repetition. Without the exclamation it could be literal because you are using the present perfect tense and could be stating a fact.

(5) I was dizzy with all the new vocabulary words!

Figurative – learning new words does not physically cause you to be dizzy.

(6) I was dizzy when I got off the merry-go-round.

Literal – physically going round and round in a circular motion can cause you to be physically dizzy.

(7) I had a frog in my throat.
Figurative – yuck! Can you imagine actually having a frog in your throat? I can’t. This expression is used when there is phlegm in the back of your throat and you temporarily can’t talk.

(8) The train jumped the tracks, causing many injuries.

Literal- trains run on tracks and when a train goes off the track, then it is said to have “jumped the track”. Although trains don’t “jump” per se, that is the term commonly used because a train has to be lifted off the track to be derailed.

(9) His mind jumped the tracks and he couldn’t remember his speech.

Figurative – your mind is not on a track literally (like a train) and therefore can’t jump it. This figure of speech expresses that your mind was thinking of something - a sequence of thoughts - and when you got distracted you lost your focus or forgot what you were going to say.