



## IRONY

Someone genuinely believed that distracting drivers with this pointless sign would create safer roads auto-fall.com



There's nothing like irony



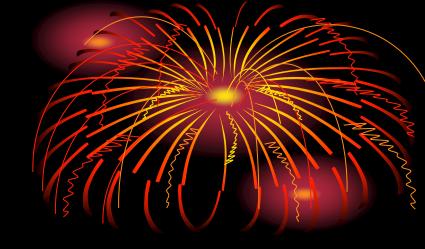
## IRONY

itsa b isn't it

#### Noun

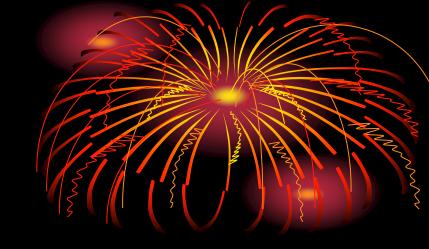


- 1.the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning: the irony of her reply, "How nice!" when I said I had to work all weekend long.
- 2. Literature. a technique of indicating, as through character or plot development, an intention or attitude opposite to that which is actually or ostensibly stated.



- In general, it is a contrast between expectation and reality.
- Irony can create powerful effects, from humor to strong emotion. There are three common types of irony.

## The Types of Irony Are:

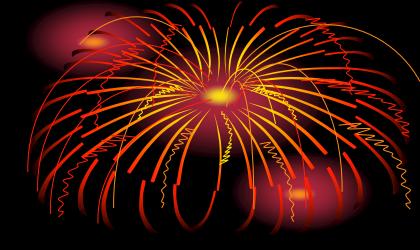


Verbal Irony

Situational Irony

Dramatic Irony

## Verbal Irony



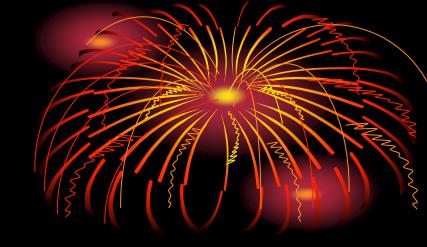
• (Also called <u>sarcasm</u>) Involves a contrast between what is said or written and what is meant. If you called someone you hated "Love", you would be using verbal irony.

### Situational Irony

- Occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. Think in a TV weather presenter getting caught in a surprise rainstorm after saying how sunny the day would be.
- Examples include the endings of:

The Necklace
The Planet of the Apes (1969)
The Sixth Sense (1999)

#### **Dramatic Irony**



- Occurs when the audience or the reader knows something a character doesn't.
- In in Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet we know what each one of them is trying to do so be together, but tragically, they don't.

#### Ironic

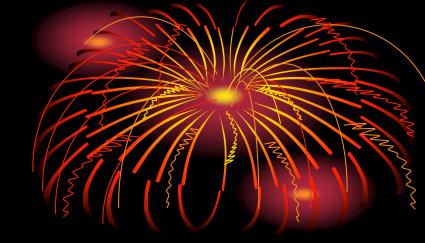
An old man turned ninety-eight
He won the lottery and died the next day
It's a death row pardon two minutes too late
Isn't it ironic ... don't you think

It's like rain on your wedding day
It's a free ride when you've already paid
It's the good advice that you just didn't take
Who would've thought ... it figures

Mr. Play It Safe was afraid to fly
He packed his suitcase and kissed his kids good-bye
He waited his whole life to take that flight
And as the plane crashed down he thought
'Well isn't this nice...'
And isn't it ironic ... don't you think

It's a traffic jam when you're already late
It's like ten thousand spoons when all you need is a knife
It's meeting the man of my dreams
And then meeting his beautiful wife
And isn't it ironic... don't you think
A little too ironic... and yeah I really do think...

#### **Practice Exercise**

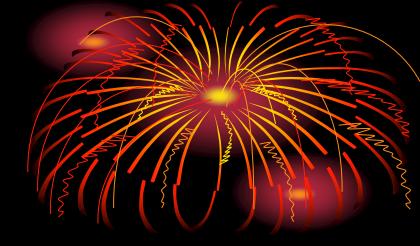


- 1. List the three types of irony studied today.
- 2. Give one characteristic for each type.
- 3. Which is your favorite type of irony? Why?

#### **Practice Exercise**

- 4. Identify the type of irony in the next sentences:
  - a. An anti-technology website.
  - **b.** A mother calls her prison inmate son a "good boy".
  - c. In Noel Coward's Oscar-winning Cavalcade, extremely happy honeymooners wonder how long their joy will last. The camera pulls back to reveal a life preserver stenciled "RMS Titanic."
  - d. A man jumps over a giant waterfall in a barrel and survives, only to take a cleanup shower where he slips on the soap and dies from trauma.

#### References



- http://grammar.about.com/od/il/g/ironyterm.htm
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irony
- Elements of Literature: Third course