

Verbal Irony

Irony in which a person says or writes one thing and means another, or uses words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of the literal meaning.

Examples:

- Soft like a brick
- Hard as putty
- Clear as mud
- As pleasant as surgery
- Saying “Oh, fantastic!” when the situation is actually very poor
- As calm as a dog in heat
- As sunny as a winter day in Vancouver
- This chair is as comfortable as sitting on nails.
- I enjoyed the movie as much as getting a root canal.
- The steak was as tender as a leather boot.
- I like spending time with my co-workers as much as I enjoy digging my eye out with a dull spoon.



"It doesn't get any better than this."



Irony Quiz:

Which type of irony matches the examples below.

1. You are walking down the street and you see a quarter but you do not pick it up. When you try to take the bus minutes later you discover you are 25 cents short.

2. You work at a fire extinguisher factory, when you get home your house is on fire and you don't have one.

3. In Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, Oedipus searches to find the murderer of the former king of Thebes, only to discover that it is himself, a fact the audience has known all along.

4. A patient is at the dentist and just as the dentist is about to give him a shot in the mouth to numb him, the patient says, "Wow, this is going to be fun!"

5. Mother comes into the TV room and discovers her 11-year-old watching *South Park* instead of doing his homework. She says, "Don't let me tempt you from your duties, kiddo, but when you're finished with your serious studies there, maybe we could take some time out for recreation and do a little math."

6. A woman is apprehensive about attending a wedding due to being single. She however goes and meets her future husband.

7. In a movie, a man is about to shoot someone, however, when the noise of the gun being fired occurs, instead of the bullet hitting the victim, the shooter himself is shot by someone else.

8. Someone referring to someone's son-in-law as their 'favorite', when in fact that is far from the truth.
