

METAPHORS

"METAPHORS HAVE A WAY OF HOLDING THE MOST TRUTH IN THE LEAST SPACE."
ORSON SCOTT CARD

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a comparison is made between two unlike things that actually have something important in common.



Why do we use metaphors?

Metaphors are used to emphasize the qualities of something by comparing it to something else, and thus the meaning becomes clearer and more effective. Think about the difference between saying 'he controls his students' and 'his students are puppets on a string and he is the puppet master.' One is definitely more descriptive and communicates the meaning more powerfully.

EXAMPLES:

- » Love is a battlefield.
- » He is floating on a sea of grief.
- » She has rats' tails for hair.

Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES, EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THE METAPHOR.

EXAMPLE: John can lift 20 bricks; he is an ox. This means that John is extremely strong.

1. He turned over a new leaf. _____
2. My dad was very blue yesterday. _____
3. Mary is a couch potato at the moment. _____
4. Sara is the apple of her father's eye. _____
5. My mum has a bubbly personality. _____
6. The teacher immediately shot down my idea. _____
7. Ben has the heart of a lion. _____
8. She is the brightest in the class. _____
9. It rained cats and dogs yesterday. _____
10. Aunt Jo has a heart of gold. _____

Task Two: CREATE YOUR OWN METAPHORS. (REMEMBER: MAKE DIRECT COMPARISONS WITHOUT 'LIKE' OR 'AS').

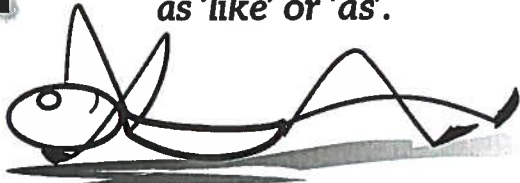
EXAMPLE: Friendship is a life boat that is always there in times of trouble.

1. Life is _____ which _____.
2. Love is _____, which never _____.
3. My teacher is _____; she always _____.
4. The day was _____.
5. The pen was _____ in his hand when he _____.
6. He was a _____ during their relationship, as he always _____.
7. My pillow is a _____ beneath my head when I _____.
8. My mother is a _____ when she _____.
9. The spoon was _____ when I _____.
10. He _____ down the stairs, because he _____.

SIMILES

"SIMILES PROVE NOTHING, BUT YET GREATLY LIGHTEN AND RELIEVE THE TEDIUM OF AN ARGUMENT"
ROBERT SOUTH

A simile is a figure of speech in which a comparison is made between two things, with the use of a connective word such as 'like' or 'as'.



Why use similes?

Writers, poets, and songwriters use similes to add depth and emphasize what they are trying to convey to the reader or listener; it makes their writing more descriptive and effective. Similes can be funny, serious, mean, or creative.

EXAMPLES:

- » He eats like a pig.
- » Life is like a box of chocolates.
- » This cake is as dry as a bone.
- » You look as white as a ghost.

Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES, EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THE SIMILE.

EXAMPLE: She slept like a log last night. This means that she slept deeply and well.

1. I feel like a limp dishcloth. _____
2. She eats like a pig when she is hungry. _____
3. Bob is like a bull in a china shop today. _____
4. Fly like the wind! _____
5. My father is as sharp as a pin. _____
6. She swims like a fish. _____
7. Cindy's skin is like porcelain. _____
8. My bag feels like a ton of bricks. _____
9. Tom and Joe are like two peas in a pod. _____
10. I feel as flat as a pancake. _____

Task Two: CREATE YOUR OWN SIMILES. (REMEMBER: MAKE COMPARISONS USING CONNECTIVE WORDS):

EXAMPLE: Tom is as anxious as a mouse in a cattery.

1. She dances like _____.
2. Betty is as _____ as _____.
3. My teacher teaches like _____, because she _____.
4. The day was like _____.
5. I always feel like a _____ when I _____.
6. My dad's words were as _____ as _____.
7. When John is tired, he is like _____.
8. My sister is like a _____ when she _____.
9. He spun around like a _____, when I _____.
10. Steven eats like _____ when he eats _____.



EUPHEMISM

"EUPHEMISM IS A HUMAN DEVICE TO CONCEAL THE HORRORS OF REALITY." - PAUL JOHNSON

Why do we use euphemisms?

Euphemisms are used regularly, and there are many examples in every day language. The purpose of euphemisms is to replace unpleasant and severe words with more genteel ones in order to disguise the harshness, and soften the meaning when talking about unpleasant issues such as death, unemployment, crime or other 'embarrassing' matters.

EXAMPLES:

- » My father passed away last year.
- » Betty is large-boned.
- » The company has to let people go.
- » His dog was put down.

A euphemism is a polite expression used in place of words or phrases that otherwise might be considered harsh or unpleasant to hear.

Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES, EXPLAIN THE TRUE MEANING OF THE EUPHEMISM.

EXAMPLE: His wife passed away last year. This means that his wife died.

1. There was collateral damage in the war. _____
2. Did you just pass wind? _____
3. We sell pre-owned vehicles. _____
4. Tom's cooking skills leave room for improvement. _____
5. Your cat needs to be put to sleep. _____
6. Beth is vertically challenged. _____
7. My sister is always borrowing clothes without asking. _____
8. Elizabeth is expecting again. _____
9. He spent some time at a correctional facility last year. _____
10. The company is downsizing. _____

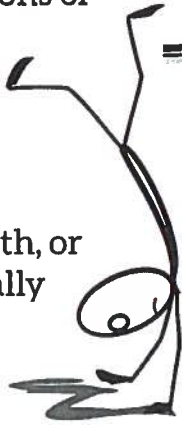
Task Two: CREATE YOUR OWN EUPHEMISMS - REWRITE THE FOLLOWING, TRYING TO 'SOFTEN' THEM.

EXAMPLE: My uncle is a liar. = My uncle likes to stretch the truth.

1. My aunty Ann is very old. _____
2. She is uglier than her sister. _____
3. Your mother died this morning. _____
4. My brother is really lazy. _____
5. Gertrude is a thief. _____
6. Your cousin is unintelligent. _____
7. I am going to the toilet. _____
8. Tim cheated on his homework. _____
9. My husband is unemployed. _____
10. Bob is poor. _____

Why personify?

Personification can make descriptions of non-human things more vivid, or can help readers understand, sympathize with, or react emotionally to non-human characters.



PERSONIFICATION

"IT WOULD BE CURIOUS TO DISCOVER WHO IT IS TO WHOM ONE WRITES IN A DIARY. POSSIBLY TO SOME MYSTERIOUS PERSONIFICATION OF ONE'S OWN IDENTITY." - BEATRICE WEBB

EXAMPLES:

- » The wind whispered through the trees.
- » The sun beat down on us.
- » Love is blind.
- » Her life passed her by.

Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, idea or animal is given human characteristics. Whatever is being personified is portrayed in such a way that we feel they have the ability to act like human beings.

Task One: FILL IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

		What's being personified?	What human characteristic is given?
Ex.	Love will carry us through.	Love	The ability to hold and carry (which you need arms for).
1	The sun announced that it was time to get up.		
2	Time flew as we enjoyed each other's company.		
3	They slept soundly in front of the comforting fire.		
4	The chocolate ice cream is calling my name.		
5	He was aware that Death was knocking at his door.		
6	The words leapt off the page as she read.		
7	The bees played hide and seek atop the flowers.		
8	In the moonlight, the waves dance & play with the shore.		

Task Two: COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING, BY USING PERSONIFICATION.

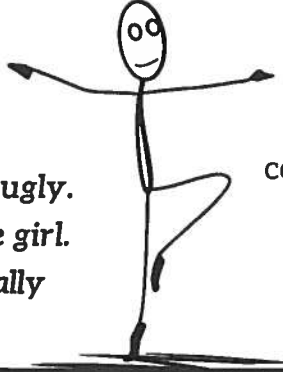
1. The clock on the wall _____.
2. The oven _____ the food I had prepared.
3. I suddenly felt Anger _____.
4. My cell phone _____ on the table and _____.
5. The mountains _____ as the plane flew overhead.
6. His alarm clock _____ from the bedside table.
7. She ran as fast as she could as Time _____.
8. The book _____ and then _____ as I began to read it.

OXY MORON

"I AM A DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL PERSON." - ANDY WARHOL

EXAMPLES:

- » That would be awfully nice.
- » Pigs are pretty ugly.
- » She is a big little girl.
- » I am almost totally happy.



Why use oxymorons?

Writers often use oxymorons to draw attention to a particular contradiction, or to create an ironic sense of humor. They can also use oxymorons to emphasize certain qualities or ideas, or even to confuse the reader.

An oxymoron is a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction. The incongruity may be accidental or deliberate (as in the case of humor).

Task One: COMBINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS TO MAKE 12 DIFFERENT OXYMORONS. THEN WRITE SENTENCES WITH THEM BELOW (ONE SENTENCE PER OXYMORON).

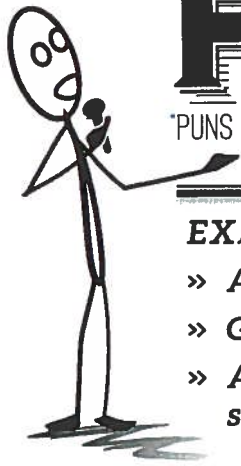
fine	sorrow	random	chaos	bitter
sweet	deafening	nightmare	disaster	shallow
beautiful	mess	organized	alone	failure
together	successful	deeply	silence	order

EXAMPLE: [beautiful + disaster] Our failed relationship was definitely a beautiful disaster.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Why do we use puns?

Puns can be very humorous and therefore writers, comedians, actors etc. use them in jokes and witty remarks. However, they are also used regularly in everyday speech, sometimes intentionally and sometimes accidentally (often the most humorous are the unintentional puns!)



PUNS

"PUNS ARE THE HIGHEST FORM OF LITERATURE."
ALFRED HITCHCOCK

EXAMPLES:

- » A horse is a very stable animal.
- » Gloves are extremely handy.
- » A skunk fell in the river and stank to the bottom.

A pun is a play on words; a joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words which sound alike but have different meanings.

Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PUNS, EXPLAIN THE HUMOR:

		Punning word?	Explain the pun.
	Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.	'flies' & 'like'	This pun plays on the different meanings of the words 'flies' and 'like' / flies = the action and the insect / like = similarity and preference
1	An elephant's opinion carries a lot of weight.		
2	An angry bird landed on a door knob. Then flew off the handle.		
3	Biking without a helmet is a no brainer.		
4	Santa's helpers are known as subordinate Clauses.		
5	Old skiers never die, they just go downhill.		
6	What do you call a cheese which is not yours? Nacho cheese.		
7	The chicken crossed the playground to get to the other slide.		
8	When my mother saw her first grey hair she thought she'd dye.		
9	Most people don't like food going to waist.		
10	I usually take steps to avoid elevators.		

Why do we use hyperbole?

The purpose of hyperbole is to create a larger-than-life effect and overly stress a specific point. Such sentences usually convey an action or sentiment that is generally not realistically possible or plausible, but helps emphasize an emotion.



HYPERBOLE

"HYPERBOLE IS A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN EXAGGERATION."
STEVE CARELL

EXAMPLES:

- » I've seen this movie a million times.
- » I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
- » He has tons of money.

Hyperbole is extreme exaggeration used to make a point. This literary device is used by writers and poets, but is also common in everyday speech, as it is used to stress a point and emphasize an idea.

Task One: UNDERLINE/HIGHLIGHT ANY EXAMPLES OF HYPERBOLE IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

Yesterday I woke up in a fluster as I had a million things to do. I leapt out of bed like a gazelle and quickly showered and brushed my teeth. Then, as usual, I stared at my closet forever, feeling frustrated as I had absolutely nothing to wear! I threw on an old pair of jeans and a t-shirt and dashed downstairs. I knew I had a ton of homework hanging over my head, but I put it out of my mind, as it was just too overwhelming to think about. I was starving and so I wolfed down my breakfast, during which my brother asked me if I wanted to ride to school with him. I thought, 'Please, never in a million years would I ride in your dilapidated old car!' However, I just politely declined.

Task Two: ARE THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES OF HYPERBOLE? EXPLAIN WHY OR WHY NOT.

		Y/N	If yes, explain what it means. If no, why not?
1	My shoes are killing me!		
2	The TV is really too loud.		
3	That teacher is always shouting.		
4	I am dying to try that new computer game.		
5	My dog is so old he can barely walk anymore.		
6	My sister's brain is the size of a pea.		
7	I need the toilet; I'll be back in a second.		
8	That science lesson was never-ending.		
9	This cake is the best thing I have ever tasted.		
10	That was the easiest exam in the world.		

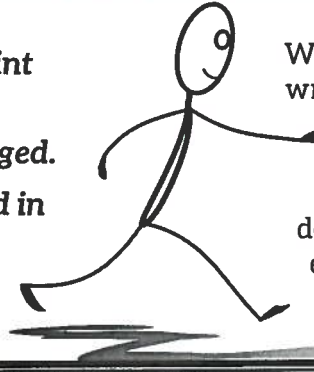
Onomatopoeia
is the use of
words that
imitate the
sounds
associated with
the objects or
actions to which
they refer.

ONOMATOPOEIA

"SOUND GIVES LIFE TO OUR WORDS JUST AS WELL AS THE IMAGES THEY CONJURE UP AND THE SOUND IS THERE, WHETHER OR NOT WE READ THEM ALOUD." - A. A. PATAWARAN

EXAMPLES:

- » I could hear a faint buzzing.
- » The guitar twanged.
- » The boy whistled in my ear.
- » The cat meowed loudly.



Why use onomatopoeia?

Writers often use onomatopoeia in their writing to make it more descriptive, as it allows the reader to almost hear what they are describing. It creates a sound effect that mimics the thing described, making the description more expressive and interesting and it helps the reader to create better images in their mind while reading.

Task One: UNDERLINE/HIGHLIGHT ANY EXAMPLES OF ONOMATOPOEIA IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

As I lay in the forest I could hear the deep thumping of my heart. I was keenly aware of my surroundings: the wind whispering through the trees; the rustling of the undergrowth; the gentle buzz and hum of the forest at night. I slowly rolled over and onto my knees and began crawling away from my hideout. I was trying to make my way to the gushing water, desperate for something to drink.

I soon came to the edge of the life-giving river and began furiously gulping, trying to take in as much as possible. After a few minutes, as my thirst was starting to abate, I became aware of a strange sound. Without looking up I listened for a while. There it was. Plop. Plop. Plop. I cautiously raised my head and saw a strange boy standing on the opposite bank. He returned my stare without stopping his rhythmic throwing of stones.

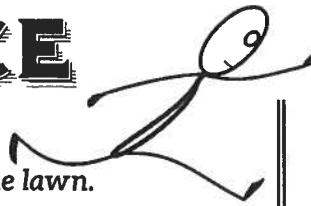
Task Two: TRY TO THINK OF AS MANY ONOMATOPOEIC WORDS AS YOU CAN AND WRITE THEM BELOW:

Task Three: USE ONOMATOPOEIA AND WRITE FIVE OF YOUR OWN SENTENCES. TRY TO USE ONOMATOPOEIC WORDS NOT PREVIOUSLY USED ON THIS WORKSHEET.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

ASSONANCE

ALLITERATION



Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in nearby words.

EXAMPLES:

- » Go and mow the lawn.
- » Engineers steered the vehicle.
- » Don't go tomorrow.

EXAMPLES:

- » The curious cat smiled.
- » Betty bought some butter.
- » She sells seashells.

Alliteration is the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Why use alliteration and assonance?
 Many authors and poets use sound devices to enhance the meaning of their words or to set a mood. When assonance is used, it draws attention to words and is often employed poetically. Similarly, alliteration is commonly used in prose writing, for instance in newspaper headlines that are intended to be memorable.

Task One: THE FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM POEMS. IDENTIFY IF THEY CONTAIN ALLITERATION OR ASSONANCE, AND UNDERLINE THE MATCHING SOUNDS.

EXAMPLE: "With blinding sight / blind eyes could blaze" (Dylan Thomas). - Alliteration

1. "The river murmured" (Jeffrey Farnol) _____
2. "With bloody blameful blade he bravely broached" (Shakespeare) _____
3. "He gives his harness bells a shake" (Robert Frost) _____
4. "A host, of golden daffodils" (William Wordsworth) _____
5. "The day of his death was a dark cold death." (W. H. Auden) _____
6. "That dolphin-torn, that gong-tormented sea." (W. B. Yeats) _____
7. "Fly o'er waste fens and windy fields." (Alfred Tennyson) _____
8. "Mary sat musing on the lamp-flame at the table." (Robert Frost) _____
9. "on a proud round cloud in white high night" (e. e. cummings) _____

Task Two: WRITE 5 SENTENCES USING ALLITERATION:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

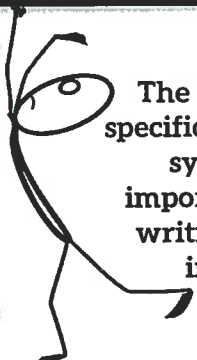
NOW WRITE 5 SENTENCES USING ASSONANCE:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SYNECDOCHE

“EVERY WORK OF ART IS A SYNECDOCHE. THERE’S NO WAY AROUND IT. EVERY CREATIVE WORK THAT SOMEONE DOES CAN ONLY REPRESENT AN ASPECT OF THE WHOLE OF SOMETHING” - CHARLIE KAUFMAN

Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole, or the whole is used to represent a part.



Why use synecdoche?

The function of synecdoche is to emphasize specific aspects of the thing or person that the synecdoche represents, and to reduce the importance of the thing itself. When used in writing, a synecdoche will add to the visual imagery of the passage and enhance the reader’s experience.

EXAMPLES:

- » Those are really nice wheels you have there.
- » Britain has won gold at the Winter Games.
- » Lend me your ears and I will play you a song.

Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING, IDENTIFY THE PART/WHOLE THAT IS BEING USED AND THEN EXPLAIN HOW IT IS SYNECDOCHE (WHAT IT MEANS).

		Part/whole	Meaning
ex	Those are some nice threads you are wearing.	Threads	The actual clothes are being talked about here, but they are made of individual threads.
1	These days people use plastic to pay for everything.		
2	He threw his glasses across the room.		
3	The world has not been kind to me.		
4	We just need a few more hands in here, then we can get this done.		
5	I see we have some new faces here tonight.		
6	The Pentagon has released a statement this morning.		
7	The streets of New York are too crowded with suits.		

Task Two: WRITE 3 SENTENCES OF YOUR OWN WHICH EMPLOY SYNECDOCHE.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

ANAPHORA

"CONSTANT REPETITION CARRIES CONVICTION" - ROBERT COLLIER

EXAMPLES:

- » Every day, every night, every moment I love you.
- » This land, this home, this place is important.
- » You did this. You ruined their lives. You are the problem.

Anaphora
is the deliberate
repetition of a word
or phrase at the
beginning of
successive clauses.



Why use anaphora?

Through the use of repetition, anaphora helps to emphasize a point and give prominence to an idea. It is used in a variety of types of writing and even in everyday speech. Speechwriters may use anaphora to appeal to the emotions of the audience in order to persuade, inspire, motivate and encourage them. Moreover, the use of anaphora in literature often adds rhythm to a work of poetry or prose.

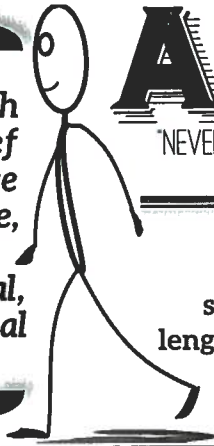
Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING, IDENTIFY THE USE OF ANAPHORA, THEN EXPLAIN WHY IT IS USED.

		Anaphora	The effect
ex	Every person, every man, every woman, every child, should experience the power of love.	The word 'every' is repeated.	The effect of repeating the word 'every' is that it stresses the fact that this applies to <u>all</u> people. It is used for emphasis.
1	"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine." (Rick Blaine in Casablanca)		
2	"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, [...] it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." (Dickens)		
3	"This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this is England... This land of such dear souls, this dear land." (Richard II, Shakespeare)		
4	"[w]e shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender." (Churchill)		
5	"It rained on his lousy tombstone, and it rained on the grass on his stomach. It rained all over the place." (Salinger)		

Task Two: WRITE 3 SENTENCES OF YOUR OWN WHICH EMPLOY ANAPHORA.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

An allusion is a figure of speech that makes a brief indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance.



ALLUSION

"NEVER AFFIRM, ALWAYS ALLUDE: ALLUSIONS ARE MADE TO TEST THE SPIRIT AND PROBE THE HEART." - UMBERTO ECO

Why allude?

The use of allusions enables writers or poets to simplify concepts or ideas without having to give lengthy descriptions. Often, writers allude to biblical stories, Greek mythology or works of literature or art, which will be known to the reader.

EXAMPLES:

- » He's a real Solomon when it comes to making decisions.
- » She's opened Pandora's box with that letter.
- » You don't need a man to save you; you're not Cinderella.

Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING, IDENTIFY WHAT IS BEING ALLUDED TO, AND EXPLAIN THE ALLUSION.

		Allusion	Explain
ex	We love having Beth help out here; she is a Mother Theresa in the making.	Mother Theresa	Mother Theresa was a missionary known for her selflessness and work with the poor. Therefore, Beth is being attributed with these characteristics.
1	These flowers are beautiful! You are quite the Romeo, aren't you?		
2	My wife has a smile which rivals the Mona Lisa.		
3	Even though he is only 5 years old, he is quite the little Einstein.		
4	Don't be a Grinch; just please help me decorate the Christmas tree.		
5	Ben was a good Samaritan yesterday, helping that old lady the way he did.		
6	Completing a triathlon is a Herculean task, but I think that Toby is up for it.		
7	Lance needs to stay away from Kylie - she is like kryptonite to him.		
8	Make the right choice and be loyal to your friends. Don't be a Judas.		

Task Two: WRITE THREE SENTENCES OF YOUR OWN, INCORPORATING THE FOLLOWING ALLUSIONS:

1. Achilles' heel: _____

2. Pinocchio: _____

3. Garden of Eden: _____

A paradox is a seemingly contradictory statement, which actually makes sense or contains some truth.

PARADOX

"IN LOVE THE PARADOX OCCURS THAT TWO BEINGS BECOME ONE AND YET REMAIN TWO." - ERICH FROMM

What is the purpose of a paradox?

The purpose of a paradox is to capture attention and provoke fresh thought. As the sense is not clear without deeper reflection and thought, it prompts the reader/listener to think critically about the topic to search for the meaning.

EXAMPLES:

- » Less is more.
- » Deep down you are really shallow.
- » This is the beginning of the end.



Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING, IDENTIFY THE CONTRADICTION & THEN EXPLAIN HOW THIS MIGHT BE TRUE.

EXAMPLE: This is the beginning of the end. The 'beginning' and the 'end' are opposites, therefore apparently contradictory. However, this can mean the point at which something starts to deteriorate.

1. Dieting makes you fat. _____

2. You need to be cruel to be kind. _____

3. There is nobody poorer than a rich man. _____

4. Nobody goes to that restaurant, as it is too crowded. _____

5. You need to spend money to make money. _____

6. (printed on a piece of paper) This page is intentionally left blank. _____

7. You must learn to swim before you get into the water. _____

8. The best advice I can give you is: Do not listen to people's advice. _____

IRONY

"IRONY IS JUST HONESTY WITH THE VOLUME CRANKED UP." - GEORGE SAUNDERS



What is the purpose of irony?

Writers and poets regularly use irony, but people in everyday speech also use it.

Often verbal irony is employed in conversation - frequently in the form of sarcasm. Irony in literature is intended to provoke the reader to think about and analyze a situation. By comparing and contrasting reality with assumptions about reality, the reader is able to gain a deeper understanding.

3 TYPES OF IRONY

Situational Irony

When there is a contrast between the result of a situation, and what was intended or usually expected

Verbal Irony

When what is said is actually the opposite of what is really meant

Dramatic Irony

When the audience or reader knows more than the characters in a work of literature

EXAMPLES:

- » *The criminals decided to rob the police station.*
- » *That dentist has really bad teeth.*
- » *I need this meeting like I need a hole in the head.*
- » *"Wow this bathroom smells fresh!" (When it really doesn't!)*

Task One: FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING, IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF IRONY & THEN EXPLAIN WHY IT'S IRONIC.

		Type	Explain
example	When watching a scary movie, the audience knows the killer is under the bed, but the girl is totally unaware as she enters.	Dramatic Irony	The audience knows more than the character, therefore it is dramatic irony. It is employed to heighten the sense of suspense and the thrill of the drama.
1	Bill Gates was seen using an Apple computer.		
2	My hairdresser has a really awful hairstyle.		
3	A Facebook status: "I really hate it when people make grammatical errors in there writing."		
4	John posted a video on YouTube about how much he hates YouTube.		
5	In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , we watch as Romeo, thinking Juliet is dead, kills himself. Yet the audience knows that she is not dead.		
6	The boy said, "Oh how wonderful!" when he found out he had failed his exam.		
7	Jill protested the ill-treatment of animals while wearing her mink coat.		
8	"This steak is as tender and delicious as chewing an old boot."		