

Satire

A literary work that ridicules its subject through the use of techniques such as exaggeration, reversal, incongruity, and/or parody in order to make a comment or criticism about it, often to incite change.

What is irony?

- * **Irony: the use of words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal meaning; an expression or utterance marked by a deliberate contrast between apparent and intended meaning.**

I. Verbal Irony

- * Verbal irony is the use of words to convey something other than, and especially the opposite of the literal meaning of the words, to emphasize, to aggrandize, or to make light of a circumstance or subject:

A man stares out a window looking at a miserably muddy rainy day and remarks, “Lovely day for a stroll.” This remark is ironic because it expresses the opposite of the circumstances.

II. Tragic or Dramatic Irony

- * Tragic irony or dramatic irony heightens the suspense in a given situation. In this form of irony the words and actions of the characters, unbeknownst to them, betray the real situation, which the spectators fully realize. An example is in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* when Romeo commits suicide after he believes Juliet to be dead.
- * Readers or audience members know more than the characters.

III. Situational Irony

- * Situational irony occurs in literature and in drama when persons and events come together in improbable situations, creating a tension between expected and real results:

A man and woman are sitting at a bus stop, and the woman divulges some of her deepest darkest secrets. The man listens and advises her, and the woman thanks him and gets on her bus. →

III. continued

After she is gone the man takes off his heavy coat to reveal that he is wearing the garb of a priest. The irony lies in the fact that the woman never knew that the man she was talking to was a priest, but the audience does, and the reality of what the audience knows about why the man was so helpful and understanding is different from the reality the woman experienced.

IV. Understatement

- * A form of *irony* in which something is intentionally represented as less than it is:

“Hank Aaron was a pretty good ball player.”

V. Hyperbole

- * A figure of speech in which exceptional exaggeration is deliberately used for emphasis rather than deception:

“I am so tired that I feel dead.”

VI. Paronomasia

- * A form of punning or playing with words using the same word or similar-sounding words:

“Your children need your presence more than your presents” (Jesse Jackson).

VII. Similes and Metaphors

Give an example of a simile using the word “tree.”

Give an example of a metaphor using the word
“basketball.”

VII. Oxymoron

- * A rhetorical figure in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined:
- * authentic reproduction
- * boneless ribs
- * inside out
- * liquid gas
- * no comment

Can you think of others?

Exaggeration

- * To enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds so that it becomes ridiculous and its faults can be seen.



Incongruity

- * To present things that are out of place or are absurd in relation to its surroundings.



New Starbucks Opens In Rest Room Of Existing Starbucks

- ▶ CAMBRIDGE, MA—Starbucks, the nation's largest coffee-shop chain, continued its rapid expansion Tuesday, opening its newest location in the men's room of an existing Starbucks.
- ▶ "Eventually, Starbucks rest rooms everywhere will sell coffee," Schultz said. "But that ambitious scheme is at least five years down the road. In the meantime, we plan to open an additional location in this Starbucks' ladies' room within months, and are already drafting plans for a fourth restaurant along the corridor leading from the main seating area to the rest rooms. At some point a 'Star-bucks Express' window will eventually open in the walk-in closet of the men's room Starbucks."

Reversal

- * To present the opposite of the normal order (e.g., the order of events, hierarchical order- often used with gender roles).



Reversal (cont)

- * 1. Reversal can focus on the the order of events, such as serving dessert before the main dish or having breakfast for dinner.
- * 2. Reversal can focus on hierarchical order—for instance, when a young child makes all the decisions for a family or when an administrative assistant dictates what the company president decides and does.

Parody

- * To imitate the techniques and/or style of some person, place, or thing.

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