

What is Irony and Sarcasm?

Worksheet

Irony is a contrast between expectation and reality; sarcasm is spoken irony using mockery for humour or criticism. Both involve a discrepancy in meaning.

Questions

1. A lifeguard drowns. What type of irony?
A) Verbal irony
B) Situational irony
C) Sarcasm
D) Metaphor
2. You say 'What a genius move!' after your friend makes a silly mistake. What is this?
A) Metaphor
B) Sarcasm
C) Alliteration
D) Personification
3. In a story, a thief is robbed. Is this irony?
A) No, just coincidence
B) Yes, situational irony
C) Only if a character says it
D) Depends on the author's intent
4. What distinguishes sarcasm from other irony?
A) It is always accidental
B) It is humorous
C) It uses mockery and is always intentional
D) It requires a character to notice it
5. It was such perfect weather for a picnic — torrential rain and hail.
6. Saying 'Oh, wonderful!' when someone spills coffee on you.
7. In a story, a fire safety officer's house burns down.
8. Define: What is irony?
9. Define: What is sarcasm?
10. Define: Is all sarcasm ironic?

Answer Key

1. B) Situational irony — Situational irony: an unexpected outcome contrary to what we'd expect from the lifeguard's role.
2. B) Sarcasm — Sarcasm: you're mocking them with the opposite meaning, using a mocking tone.
3. B) Yes, situational irony — Yes — the outcome contradicts our expectation (a thief should not be victimised).
4. C) It uses mockery and is always intentional — Sarcasm is intentional mockery — always meant to be humorous or critical.
5. Expectation: picnic needs good weather. Reality: terrible weather. Irony: speaker calls it 'perfect' but means the opposite.
6. Expectation: we praise good things. Reality: spilled coffee is bad. Sarcasm: mocking tone — we mean 'this is terrible.'
7. Expectation: a safety expert would prevent fires. Reality: his own house is destroyed. Dramatic irony: readers know; he doesn't.
8. A gap between expectation and reality, or between what is said and what is meant.
9. A form of verbal irony that uses mockery or ridicule for humour or criticism.
10. Yes — sarcasm is a type of irony. But not all irony is sarcasm.

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