Detecting Different Types of Irony
IRONY

using words to express something completely different from the literal meaning

Example from your teacher:

“I am so pleased with the attention that my wonderful students are paying to me today.”

There are three types of irony that are commonly recognized:

• Situational Irony
• Verbal Irony
• Dramatic Irony
Irony involving an unexpected ending, when the opposite of what is expected actually occurs.
SITUATIONAL IRONY
VERBAL IRONY

Irony in which the intended meaning of a statement differs from the meaning that the words appear to express.

"You're right in berating me, ma'am, as I personally decided the price of each entree."
Dramatic Irony

I Can't Sleep.  Me either. I keep thinking about the raccoon.

I hope he lives.  Me too.

I think animals are always so cute.
More Examples of the Types of Irony

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Situational Irony</th>
<th>Verbal Irony</th>
<th>Dramatic Irony</th>
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<td><strong>EXAMPLE</strong></td>
<td>A pickpocket gets his own pocket picked during a “hard day’s work.”</td>
<td>The pickpocket declares, “Well, this just makes my day!”</td>
<td>As audience members, we watched this entire pickpocket scene unfold. We knew ahead of time that the pickpocket was going to be upset when he finally discovered his own wallet missing.</td>
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Complete the Detecting Irony Handout!
**Check your work!**

**Directions:** In the scenes below, underline ALL examples of **situational irony**; circle ALL examples of **verbal irony**. Put a box around the scene that contains dramatic irony.

**Otto and Olga- Scene 1**

Otto and Olga Oggleot have decided on a life of crime. One night they hide behind a bush, waiting for an unsuspecting victim to walk by. An elderly woman, her bag in hand, walks past with her dog. Otto races out, grabs the bag, and runs back behind the bush.

“What did you get?” asks Olga. She and Otto eagerly open the bag and peer inside to inspect the contents.

“You fool, it’s a pooper-scooper bag!” yells Olga.
**Directions:** In the scenes below, underline ALL examples of situational irony; circle ALL examples of verbal irony. Put a box around the scene that contains dramatic irony.

**Otto and Olga- Scene 2**

Their next caper is a bank robbery. They park their clunker getaway car in front of First Ever Bank and then go inside. Otto nervously clears his throat and announces, “This is a bank robbery.” He is so scared and speaks so softly that no one hears him.

Olga sneers at Otto and snaps, “Speak up, Mr. Macho Man!” Otto yells, “I want a zillion dollars!” Everybody in the bank laughs at him. “Well, how about a thousand, then?” His request is met with more laughter.

Olga speaks up, “Ok, ten bucks, then, but no less!” As everyone in the bank howls with laughter, Olga and Otto run from the building and find that their getaway car has been stolen.

“This is just great!” says Olga, with a heavy sigh.
Directions: In the scenes below, underline ALL examples of situational irony; circle ALL examples of verbal irony. Put a box around the scene that contains dramatic irony.

Otto and Olga- Scene 3

Scene 3- Dramatic Irony
The two are living in a fleabag hotel, when a letter arrives for Olga, one informing her that she’s inherited $4 billion from an uncle in Brazil. With Otto looking over her shoulder, Olga opens the letter.

“What’s it say?” asks Otto.
“Don’t know. I can’t read,” says Olga.
“Me neither.”

Olga tosses the letter in the trash and sits down with Otto to plan their next daring crime.
Ironic By Alanis Morissette

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

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
Repeat Chorus

Well life has a funny way of sneaking up on you
When you think everything’s okay and everything’s going right
And life has a funny way of helping you out when
You think everything’s gone wrong and everything blows up
In your face

It’s a traffic jam when you’re already late
It’s a no-smoking sign on your cigarette break
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...
Repeat Chorus

Life has a funny way of sneaking up on you
Life has a funny, funny way of helping you out
Helping you out
Complete the What Type of Irony Is It? Section!
A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood by the back door, breaking his arm in two places. Until that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman.
<table>
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<td>It's a sparkling day, the forsythia is in full bloom, the redbuds are starting to show pale purple, and even a few hyacinths are still out. The breeze is crisp but not too cool. My colleague is beaming, obviously in good cheer. She sees me approaching, draws her brows into a frown, and says with a grin, &quot;Terrible weather!&quot;</td>
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A man is walking home from work with a friend. He steps in a big puddle of water by mistake, and his friend smiles kindly. As his friend starts to help him up, the friend remarks, "Well now, don't you have all the luck!"
Check your work!

**EXAMPLE 4**

In 1992, Frank Perkins of Los Angeles made an attempt on the world flagpole-sitting record. Suffering from the flu, he came down eight hours short of the 400-day record, to find that his sponsor had gone bankrupt, his girlfriend had left him, and his phone and electricity had been cut off.

Situational Irony
I'm the Dragon of Grindly Grun,
But my lunches aren't very much fun,
For I like my damsels medium rare,
and they always come out well done.