

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Identifying Irony

Directions: Read the following examples of irony. Determine which of the three types of irony are being used and then explain your answer.

Dramatic irony – This occurs when the reader or audience understands more about the events of a story than a character.

Situational irony – This occurs when what actually happens is the opposite of what is expected or appropriate.

Verbal irony – A character says one thing but really means the opposite.

1. A mean old man ate a large meal at a restaurant. The waitress tried to provide him with excellent service, but every time she brought him a dish, he complained. First, he thought that the soup was too cold when it was hot. Then he said that his steak was dry and chewy, when it was moist and succulent. Then he complained that one of her blonde hairs was in his mashed potatoes, but the hair was actually grey like his own. She remained patient and continued to try to help him until the end of the meal, when he left her a R1 for a tip. She replied on his way out, "Thank you for the generous tip, Mister."

Which type of irony is used?

Explain your answer:

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2. Lucy has always liked Tom, but Tom has always thought Lucy was annoying and unattractive. One day, Tom comes home to find an eviction notice on his door. Apparently, his roommate had been spending the rent money that Tom was giving him on other things. Tom only has 24 hours to get all his stuff over to his mom's house, and Tom doesn't even have a car. But Lucy has a truck. So, Tom calls up Lucy and asks her how she's doing. He tells her that he's always thought she was funny, and that they should hang out sometime. Lucy thinks that is beginning to like her. She also thinks that her jokes are funny because he is laughing after everything that she says.

Which type of irony is used?

Explain your answer:

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3. Tim Kylie is one of the world's top chefs. He is best known for his signature dish, triple-dipped chip steak. This masterpiece contains over a pound of beef braised in duck fat. Another of Chef Kylie's more celebrated dishes is the Hamslaughter Supreme. This dish features ham stuffed sausage links presented in a basket made of braided bacon. While carnivores around the world roar for Chef Kylie's creations, it is unlikely that Chef Kylie will dine with them. As a long-time vegan, Chef Kylie would never dream of devouring one of his own dishes.

Which type of irony is used?

Explain your answer:

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4. Lawrence was sweeping up the trimmings at the barbershop when he saw the circus posters. He knew right away that he would be taking his little cousins. They loved animals and Lawrence was looking forward to seeing the smiles on their faces. This trip was going to cost him though, and sweeping up hair clippings didn't pay a whole lot. Yet he saved until he had the R445 to get the tickets. When he saw his cousins' faces, the price seemed like a bargain. Soon they walked into that big circus tent. This was the first time that Lawrence realized that he and his cousins would be thirsty and hungry. As they sat in their seats, the drink vendor walked by selling beverages. Desperately thirsty, Lawrence asked how much a lemonade would cost. The drink vendor said, "R40 each." Lawrence replied, "Oh, that's it? Just R40? What a great deal for one cup of lemonade." The drink vendor walked away.

Which type of irony is used?

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Explain your answer:

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5. Mr. Reinhart is the building inspector for the municipality. Before a person can build an addition on their home or property, the plans need to be approved by Mr. Reinhart. He checks that each plan follows building codes before he approves the construction. He makes sure that construction goes according to the plan once building begins. He ensures that every structure in the municipality is built properly. One day Mr. Reinhart was having a party at his house. He and his guests were barbecuing on the porch attached to his house, when it suddenly collapsed. Apparently, termites got into the wood and had been chewing away the support beams for years. Mr. Reinhart hadn't noticed.

Which type of irony is used?

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Explain your answer:

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6. Mr. Bath is the president of Make-A-Bath Industries, a small company that employs fifteen workers, including Tom Miller, father of six. Ever since the economy went down the tubes, Make-A-Bath hasn't been selling bath tubs like they once did, and now Mr. Bath has to fire three workers, one of whom will be Tom Miller. But Mr. Bath has never fired anyone before, so he has been delaying giving Tom and the other employees the bad news. But Christmas is approaching. Tom wants to buy nice gifts for his six children, but he doesn't have any money. So, Tom charges a whole bunch of nice gifts on his credit card, figuring that he can pay it back with money that he will be getting from his job all year. Tom and his family don't have a lot of extra money to spend, so he likes to get his kids nice Christmas presents. Tom is looking forward to one of the best Christmases ever.

Which type of irony is used?

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Explain your answer:

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