

Name:

Date:

WORKSHEET :



Figures of Speech - Paradoxes, Equivocation, Irony, Oxymorons

A paradox is a contradiction that at first glance appears to make sense, but which, upon further reflection, is seen as illogical. Commonly known as “doublespeak,” equivocation is the use of vague language to hide one’s meaning or to avoid committing to a point of view. Irony is a literary device that relies on the difference between expectation and outcome. An oxymoron is a figure of speech where two words of opposite meaning are used together.

Directions: Identify the following as paradox, equivocation or "doublespeak", irony, or oxymoron in the sentences below.

1. She is acting cruel to be kind.
2. There are roaches infesting the pest control office.
3. Looking at a mess, she said, "You can win an award for cleanliness."
4. Those are bittersweet memories.
5. We promised them free "Arab lands", but the lands in the treaty are all ours.
6. My favorite show on TV is The Waking Dead.
7. Cheri just bought the coolest new virtual reality goggles.
8. The most shoplifted book in America is The Bible.
9. The only losing basketball coach in University of Kansas history is James Naismith—the man who invented basketball in 1891.
10. I would say y answer is a definite maybe.

ANSWERS :



Figures of Speech - Paradoxes, Equivocation, Irony, Oxymorons

A paradox is a contradiction that at first glance appears to make sense, but which, upon further reflection, is seen as illogical. Commonly known as “doublespeak,” equivocation is the use of vague language to hide one’s meaning or to avoid committing to a point of view. Irony is a literary device that relies on the difference between expectation and outcome. An oxymoron is a figure of speech where two words of opposite meaning are used together.

Directions: Identify the following as paradox, equivocation or "doublespeak", irony, or oxymoron in the sentences below.

1. She is acting cruel to be kind. **Paradox**
2. There are roaches infesting the pest control office. **Irony**
3. Looking at a mess, she said, "You can win an award for cleanliness." **Irony**
4. Those are bittersweet memories. **Paradox**
5. We promised them free "Arab lands", but the lands in the treaty are all ours.
Equivocation
6. My favorite show on TV is The Waking Dead. **Oxymoron**
7. Cheri just bought the coolest new virtual reality goggles. **Oxymoron**
8. The most shoplifted book in America is The Bible. **Irony**
9. The only losing basketball coach in University of Kansas history is James Naismith—the man who invented basketball in 1891. **Irony**
10. I would say y answer is a definite maybe. **Paradox**