

# Figurative Language

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## Google Slide Links

This handout provides definitions and examples of understatement to help students understand this figurative language concept. Additionally, it includes links to access the video lesson and accompanying organizer. The blog post contains further activity suggestions that are not repeated here, so be sure to visit the post for more engaging and detailed exercises to enhance your lesson.

Click here to download the **free activities from Google Drive**.

- This is the [digital version](#) including the YouTube video lesson.
- Here you will find the [printable version](#).
- Check out the blog post for activities not included in this handout.

[Irony Definition, Examples, and Lesson](#)



## Definition

Irony is a difference or contrast between expectations and realities in a circumstance. Irony is often only recognized well after an original statement or occurrence since it usually takes current events to realize the previous remark was completely wrong.



## Irony Examples

### Example 1:

Otto Lilienthal, the creator of a flying glider, was killed by his invention after declaring that it was one of the safest travel methods.

### Example 2:

A homeowner spends a year getting his home ready to sell, only to sell it to a developer who decides to tear it down to build condos.

### Example 3: From The Wizard of Oz

Dorothy, the Lion, Tin Man, and Scarecrow search all over Oz to find courage, a way to get home, a heart, and brains, only to discover that Dorothy and her friends already have the things they are looking for.

### Example 4: Kudzu

In the 1930s, the U.S. government paid workers to plant Kudzu, a vine native to Asia, over one million acres of the United States to help prevent soil erosion. The vine overgrew that it killed trees and plants, hurting instead of helping preserve nature.



## Example 5: From the Movie *Titanic*

**Rose:** Mr. Andrews, I did the sum in my head, and with the number of lifeboats times the capacity you mentioned... forgive me, but it seems that there are not enough for everyone aboard.

**ANDREWS:** About half, actually. Rose, you miss nothing, do you? In fact, I put in these new type davits, which can take an extra row of boats here.

But it was thought... by some... that the deck would look too cluttered. So I was overruled.

**CAL:** Waste of deck space as it is, on an unsinkable ship!

This scene from the movie *Titanic* is a perfect example of irony because the audience knows the “Titanic” will sink, and people on the sinking ship will need the lifeboats.



## PRINTABLE VERSION -- Organizers

Three versions of most organizers are offered: one with blanks where students write definitions and create examples; one with the definitions provided but with blank spaces for students to write in keywords; and one with the answers provided. The third copy of the organizer may be used as an **answer key**, for differentiated instruction, for students who were absent during instruction, or if you wish for the students to have the organizers already completed.

### 1. Edit the organizers.

- The structure of the page and the clipart can't be changed. They are embedded into the background of the Google Slides.
- Textboxes are on top of the embedded background. This means all text can be altered.
- Look through the organizers. Change font size and style, spacing between lines, or text to fit the needs of your students. (Warning: The samples match the video.)

### 2. Print the organizers.

- Print the organizers after you make edits.

### 3. Using the Organizers:

- Have students watch the instructional video that goes with the organizer. Pause the video when instructed to do so. Have students complete the organizer. Next have students watch the remainder of the video to check their answers.

### 4. Fold the Organizer.

- This organizer requires no cutting or coloring. I recommend telling students that they can color the blackline drawings at home if they wish to, but it is not necessary.
- The organizer folds like a fan. Make sure the first fold is under, so the definitions are on top and will be visible when flipping through the interactive notebook.

### 5. Gluing the Organizer:

- Flip the organizer over with the text box with the definition faces down. Have students place a single line of white school glue down the back right-hand side of the organizer. Glue the organizers two to a page (four to an open notebook).

## Pun

Fill in the blanks to complete the definition of pun.

A pun is a \_\_\_\_\_  
misusing the different  
possible \_\_\_\_\_  
of a word or the fact that  
there are words which  
\_\_\_\_\_ alike but  
have \_\_\_\_\_  
meanings.

### Example

A chicken  
farmer's  
favorite car  
is a coupe.



She had a photographic  
memory but never  
developed it.

## Sarcasm

Sarcasm is a remark that  
people use to say the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of what's true  
with a purpose to \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
\_\_\_\_\_ someone by making them feel

For example: When you  
expected something to  
happen, especially after  
warning someone about it,  
someone says, "Well, what a

### Example



When someone says  
something that is very  
obvious:

Really, Sherlock? Not You  
are clever.

## Irony

Irony is a  
\_\_\_\_\_ or  
contrast between  
\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ in a  
circumstance. Irony is  
often only recognized  
well \_\_\_\_\_ an  
original statement or  
occurrence since it often  
takes \_\_\_\_\_  
events to realize the  
previous remark was  
completely \_\_\_\_\_

### Example



Otto Lilienthal, creator of a  
flying glider, was killed by his  
own invention after declaring  
that it was one of the safest  
ways to travel.

## Understatement

Fill in the blanks to complete  
the definition of  
understatement.

An understatement is a figure  
of speech when a speaker  
makes the situation seem less  
\_\_\_\_\_ or  
\_\_\_\_\_ than what it is.  
The statement a statement  
that makes something seem  
smaller. An understatement  
adds \_\_\_\_\_ to  
\_\_\_\_\_ situations.  
When verbal, the speaker  
delivers the statement without  
\_\_\_\_\_ for effect.  
Think of understatements as  
the opposite of hyperbole.

### Example



A hurricane has hit your home  
at the beach. Most likely the  
home has serious damage. You  
say, "At least the plants will get  
watered."



# Irony

Irony is a \_\_\_\_\_ or contrast between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in a circumstance. Irony is often only recognized well \_\_\_\_\_ an original statement or occurrence since it often takes \_\_\_\_\_ events to realize the previous remark was completely \_\_\_\_\_.

## Example



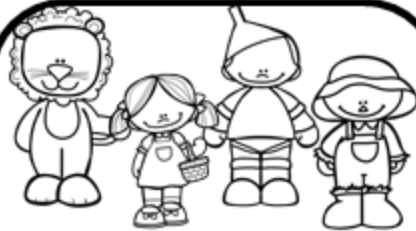
Otto Lilienthal, creator of a flying glider, was killed by his own invention after declaring that it was one of the safest ways to travel.

## Finish the situation to make it ironic.



A homeowner spends a year getting his home ready to sell only to sell it to a developer who...\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Dorothy, Lion, Tin Man, and Scarecrow search all over Oz to find courage, a way to get home, a heart, and brains only to discover...\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



In the 1930s, the U.S. government paid workers to plant Kudzu, a vine native to Asia, over one million acres of the United States to help prevent soil erosion. The vine grew so quickly...\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Movie *Titanic*  
**ROSE** - Mr. Andrews, I did the sum in my head, and with the number of lifeboats times the capacity you mentioned... forgive me, but it seems that there are not enough for everyone aboard.

**ANDREWS** - About half, actually. Rose, you miss nothing, do you? In fact, I put in these new type davits, which can take an extra row of boats here.

But it was thought... by some... that the deck would look too cluttered. So I was overruled.

**CAL** - Waste of deck space as it is, on an unsinkable ship!

Explain the dramatic irony behind Cal's remark.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Irony

Irony is a **difference** or contrast between **expectations** and realities in a **circumstance**. Irony is often only recognized well **after** an original statement or occurrence since it often takes **current** events to realize the previous remark was completely **wrong**.

## Example



Otto Lilienthal, creator of a flying glider, was killed by his own invention after declaring that it was one of the safest ways to travel.

## Finish the situation to make it ironic.



A homeowner spends a year getting his home ready to sell only to sell it to a developer who...**decides to tear it down to build condos.**



Dorothy, Lion, Tin Man, and Scarecrow search all over Oz to find courage, a way to get home, a heart, and brains only to discover...**Dorothy and her friends already had the things they looked for.**



In the 1930s, the U.S. government paid workers to plant Kudzu, a vine native to Asia, over one million acres of the United States to help prevent soil erosion. The vine grew so quickly....**it killed trees and plants hurting instead of helping preserve nature.**



Movie *Titanic*  
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But it was thought... by some... that the deck would look too cluttered. So I was overruled.

**CAL** - Waste of deck space as it is, on an unsinkable ship!

Explain the dramatic irony behind Cal's remark.

**The audience knows the Titanic is going to sink and the lifeboats are going to be needed.**

# Figurative Language

Be sure to get all the parts of this activity.

Blog Post

[Irony Definition, Examples, and Lesson](#)

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