

Irony

- The difference between what someone would reasonably **expect** to **happen** and what **actually** does **happen**.

Verbal Irony

- **Verbal irony** is the use of **words** to **mean** something **different** from what a person **actually** says.
- Used by a speaker **intentionally**.
- Occurs in a **conversation** where a person aims to be **understood** as **meaning** something **different** to what his or her words **literally** mean.
- Example of verbal irony:
 - “Thanks for the ticket officer, you just made my day!”
 - “ I can’t wait to read this seven hundred page report.”
- Two Types of Verbal Irony
 - **Overstatement**-When a person **exaggerates** the character of something.
 - **Understatement**- When a person **undermines** the character of something.
- **Verbal Irony & Sarcasm**
 - Verbal implies a different meaning of what is being said.
 - “Great, someone stained my new dress.”
 - Sarcasm is used to insult or to cause harm.
 - “You call this a work of art?”

Dramatic Irony

- **Dramatic irony** is a plot device in which the **audience** or **reader** is aware of something that the **characters** in the story are not **aware** of.
- **An example** of dramatic irony in the comedy, “There’s Something About Mary” Ted thinks the police have arrested him for picking up a hitchhiker, but the audience knows that the police are interrogating him about a murder, which is why when Ted says, “I’ve done it several times before” and “It’s no big deal,” generates laughter.

Situational irony

- **Situational irony** occurs when the exact **opposite** of what is **meant** to happen, **happens**.
 - Example: A fire station burns down.
- **There is a difference between situational irony and coincidence or bad luck.**
- For situational irony to occur, there has to be something that **leads** a person to think that a particular event or situation is **unlikely** to happen.
 - When someone washes his car and it rains, this is just bad luck; nothing led him to believe that it would not rain.
 - When a TV weather presenter gets caught in an unexpected storm, it is ironic because he or she is expected to know the exact weather changes