

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 person or character says one thing but really means the opposite.

1. When Mr. Goodenwell saw his baby boy Vince for the first time, he swore that he'd do anything to protect the little guy. This was easy at first. All Vince did was lie in a pillow and drink milk. But soon little Vince grew bigger, and then he started walking. Now little Vince got into everything. Vince's curiosity was becoming a serious threat to himself. So Mr. Goodenwell went to the store and bought \$150 worth of equipment to childproof his home. He put covers on the outlets, bumpers on the table corners, and a sliding lock on the toilet lid. As Mr. Goodenwell was adjusting the covers on the door knobs, Vince pulled the cap off an outlet and chewed on it. It got lodged in his throat and Vince began to choke. Mr. Goodenwell found him just in time.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

2. One bright Easter morning, Timmy Holloway woke up to the smell of eggs, but not breakfast eggs, Easter eggs. That's right Timmy had a craving for Easter eggs, and today was the day to get them, boy howdy. There was only one thing standing in his way, well two really: the Solomon brothers. The Solomon brothers got more eggs than Timmy every year. Timmy reasoned that this was because there were two of them and they counted their eggs as one. He suspected that this was cheating but couldn't articulate the notion. Timmy clutched his sack behind his back as the Solomon brothers approached him. The taller brother distracted Timmy. The shorter one snuck behind him and clipped the corner of Timmy's egg sack, making quite a big hole. Timmy failed to notice this. When the whistle blew, Timmy was off. He wasn't surprised to see the Solomon brothers behind him. Timmy was much faster than they. He was surprised that they chose to follow him. Timmy beat them to every egg, and raced on to the next, never noticing that his sack wasn't getting heavier. As he approached the end of the course, Timmy was elated to be the first to finish. The Solomon brothers were right behind him. "Maybe next year, loser twins," Timmy chuckled, right before he noticed that his sack was empty.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

3. Making friends isn't easy. Ask Juan Guerrero, who moved to New High School High three months ago but he still eats lunch by himself. Nobody picks on him really, but they pretty much ignore him, at least since the incident. You see, Juan had his chance. We almost adopted him into our crew, the skaters, after Juan said he could skate. "Oh yeah?" asked my boy Romeo, "well, where's your board?" Juan

replied shakily, "Uh, my mom ran over it with her car, but I do flips and grinds and all that stuff." Romeo didn't believe him. "Why don't you use my board? Show me one of those flips," Romeo challenged. Juan gulped and grabbed the board. "Uh... Ok," he replied. When you see a good skater on TV or in a video game, skateboarding may look easy. In real life though, just moving without falling, let alone doing any tricks, takes a lot of practice. So I wasn't too surprised when Juan landed flat on his can before he even made it across a single sidewalk square. "Wow! What an awesome flip, Tony Hawk. You'll have to teach me that," Romeo sneered. Now Juan eats lunch alone.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

4. "Oh, a sweater! That was nice Bobby," said Janet after opening the present. Janet thought the sweater was hideous, but she appreciated her boyfriend's effort. Still, she exchanged it for some boots the first chance she got. She figured that Bobby would want her to be happy. A week later Bobby made reservations for two at the nicest restaurant in town. "Janet, I want to take you somewhere special," He said. "I have good news to tell you. Wear that sweater that I got you. It'll be perfect." Janet didn't know how to react, "Um... I don't think that sweater quite matches these boots I want to wear. Is it cool if I just wear it another time?" Bobby huffed, "You know, Janet, that sweater was expensive. The least you could do is act like you appreciate it." Janet saw no other option but to agree to wear the sweater, so she did. Now she was in a pickle.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

5. As the holiday season ended, Bertha Berger struggled to put on her blue jeans. They seemed much tighter than usual, so she stepped on the bathroom scale and received the bad news. She had never seen such a high number on the little scale, so she resolved to change. That day she threw out all the junk food in her fridge and went grocery shopping. Determined to lose weight, she bought low-fat versions of all her favorite foods. She had a low-sodium bacon sandwich with a diet soda for lunch. The sandwich contained over 1,200 calories but had very little salt. For dinner she ate two turkey burgers with reduced-fat cheese. Though she had consumed over 2,000 calories, Bertha felt like she deserved a reward. So for dessert she ate two low-calorie ice-cream sandwiches. And before bed she ate a bag of baked potato chips, which are healthier than normal chips. She dipped them in low-fat cream cheese. Bertha had consumed around 6,500 calories that day, but she felt skinny. When she woke up the next morning, she stepped on the scale. She couldn't wait to see how successful her diet had been.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer: