

24. TITLE:

Irony

SENTENCES

EXAMPLES:

- a. Our 'luxury' hotel turned out to be a farm outbuilding.
- b. The 'trip of our dreams' was, in fact, our worst nightmare.
- c. With dawn breaking the 'beautiful view', which the brochure described, revealed itself to be a scrap-yard and rubbish tip.

EXPLANATION:

An Irony sentence deliberately overstates how good or bad something is.

The overstated word such as *wonderful* or *terrible* is then shown to be a falsehood in the remainder of the sentence, when truth is evidenced. (as in the examples above.)

TEACHING TIPS:

It is useful to begin by discussing and collecting superlatives which can be used in the initial, ironic, part of the sentence. Once again, an A-Z of superlatives can form a useful visual element of class display:

A	Amazing, astounding	I	Incredible	Q	
B	Best	J		R	
C	Colossal	K		S	Superb
D	Delicious	L		T	Tremendous
E	Exciting	M	Marvellous	U	Unbeatable
F	Fantastic	N		V	Value-for-money
G	Great	O		W	Wonderful
H	Horrendous	P	Perfect		