



Irony

- An expression/situation where result is *opposite*, or *contradictory* to, what was intended/meant.
 - Signals difference between appearance and reality of things
- Three types:
 - Verbal irony: say one thing and mean another
 - “It sure is a nice day for a picnic,” in the middle of a rainstorm
 - Situational irony: result is *opposite* of what was intended
 - You laugh at your friend for stepping in the mud, only to then step in a puddle yourself
 - Dramatic irony: we know what’s going to happen but the character doesn’t
 - We know that the wolf is in Grandma’s clothes, but Little Red Riding Hood doesn’t

Mistake-ing Irony

- It is very easy to mistake irony, and misidentify it
 - Alania Morissette's song [Irony](#)
- Let's see...Irony or not?
 - The name of Britain's biggest dog (until it died recently) was Tiny...
 - **YES, ironic**
 - A man is incarcerated in a prison he used to be the warden of...
 - **YES, ironic**
 - "It's like rain on your wedding day."
 - **NO, not ironic.**
 - **It might be ironic if it's raining on your wedding day in the desert. Or snowing on a wedding day in July.**
 - Drawing trees on paper...
 - **This one could go either way,. Irony is somewhat subjective, so for something like this context matters**

Always be careful to distinguish between *sarcasm* and *irony*. They are not always the same thing!