Name _____ Date _____

Irony

Practice

Irony is a contradiction between appearance and reality, between expectation and outcome, or between meaning and intention. Readers frequently encounter three types of irony:

- **Verbal irony** is the use of words to suggest the opposite of their usual meaning. *Example:* Friends call a bald man "Curly."
- **Situational irony** occurs when something happens that directly contradicts expectations. *Example:* Someone buys an expensive outfit for a party where the main activity turns out to be playing soccer in the mud.
- **Dramatic irony** occurs when the reader or the audience is aware of something that a character is not. *Example:* Fans watch as a player spikes the ball and starts a victory dance one foot short of the goal line while opposing linebackers close in.

A Write *Irony* before each item that describes an ironic situation. Write *No Irony* before each item that does not contain irony.

1. _____ William works hard at his job, but his boss never gives him a raise. William decides not to work as hard, and a few months later, his boss says, "Good work, William. I'm going to give you a raise."

2. _____ "Nice ride," said Al as the muffler fell off my old car.

3. _____ Cindy hears on the radio that it is expected to rain heavily on Friday, so she decides not to buy tickets to Friday's ball game. On Friday, it rains heavily and the game is canceled.

4. _____ Brenda saves up her money to buy a special computer. Just when she finally has enough money, the computer company stops selling the computer.

B For the following example of irony, fill in the blanks to show the difference between reality and expectation.

Mike wants to show off to Suzanne. As he drives her to her tennis lesson, he tells her a long story about how good a driver he is. He is talking so much that he misses their turn and gets lost. Suzanne says, "Great driving, Mike!"

Expectation: _____

Reality: _____

© Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.