Elements of Humor

Ironic:
  Verbal
  Situational
  Dramatic
The term irony has a slightly different interpretation in everyday life than it does when applied to literature.

In everyday life, people often say something is ironic when anything happens that in some way contrasts with what was expected. This is irony in a broad sense.

When applied to literature, we look for examples of irony that are more specific, where the contrast is clearer and purposeful. The author creates the contrast to serve the story in some way.

**Literary Irony comes in three forms:**

*Verbal, Situational and Dramatic.*
Verbal Irony – Contrast between what is said and what is really meant

“Time flies when you’re having fun..”
Situational Irony – *Contrast* between what happens and what one expects to happen
Dramatic Irony: *Contrast*
between what
the audience
knows and what
the character
knows
General Term:
Irony – *Contrast* between expectation and reality

Literary Terms:
Verbal Irony – *Contrast* between what is said and what is really meant

Situational Irony – *Contrast* between what happens and what one expects to happen

Dramatic Irony – *Contrast* between what the audience knows and what the character knows

IRONY

...or is it?