

irony, n., 1 method of expression in which the ordinary meaning of the words is the opposite of the thought in the speaker's mind: *The boys called the very tall boy "Shorty"* . 2 event or outcome which is the opposite of what would naturally be expected: *By the irony of fate farmers had rain when they needed sun.*

Irony, sarcasm, satire are often confused although they are not synonyms. Irony is the deliberate use of language in a sense opposite to that which the words ordinarily have; the hearer or reader must grasp the true meaning as well as the surface meaning: *that noble and loyal patriot, Benedict Arnold...*