INSTRUCT

Display image 1 from the set of Expected Images included with this lesson. Ask students, “What would you expect if you saw a sign like this?” (a bird-free area) Next, display image 2. Ask students, “What would you expect if you saw a dog with an obedience school diploma?” (a well-trained dog) Next, display image 3. Ask students, “What do you expect a fire hydrant to do?” (extinguish fires)

Then, display images 1, 2, and 3 from the set of Ironic Images included with this lesson. Ask students to describe what is going on in each image. Then, ask, “What do these images have in common?” Record student responses to guide the discussion. Student comments might include the following observations:

- The images show a bird sitting on a sign that indicates no birds are allowed, a dog chewing on an obedience school diploma, and a fire hydrant on fire.
- All three images show something that is the opposite of what is expected: a bird should not sit where birds are not allowed, a well-trained dog should not chew on a diploma, and a fire hydrant should put out a fire, not be on fire.

Explain to students that this difference between what is going on and what is expected is called **irony**. (Specific types of irony—situational, verbal, and dramatic—will be addressed in Irony: Part B.)

Define the term:

- **Irony is something that is the opposite of what is expected.**

Refer students to the Anchor Chart to develop understanding:

1. Reinforce the definition of irony by pointing out to students that the three images they analyzed are all examples of irony because they depict a situation that is the opposite of what is expected.
2. Read the So, what’s in it for me? section with students, and discuss additional real-life examples of irony.

PRACTICE

- Provide students with the Irony Chart graphic organizer included with this lesson, or have them create their own by labeling three columns: **What is the situation? What is expected?** and **What is the irony?** Display the images on the left side of the set of Image Pairs included with this lesson. Have students record the situation depicted in each image and any associated expectations (e.g., *a dentist; clean teeth*). Then, display the images on the right, and have students describe what is depicted (e.g., *a dentist with dirty teeth*). Discuss what makes each image ironic.
- Provide students with a set of examples and non-examples of irony, like the Irony Sorting Cards included with this lesson. Have students sort the cards into two piles: expected and ironic images. For each example of irony, students should describe what makes the image ironic.

- Display or distribute the Irony Comics included with this lesson. Have students work with a partner to match each comic that shows an expected statement in the speech bubble (e.g., *What awful weather!* ) with the one that shows an ironic, or unexpected, statement (e.g., *What a beautiful day!* ). Then, have student pairs discuss what makes the statements ironic.

**ADAPT**

**SUPPORT**

- Scaffold the sorting activity (Practice section) by discussing each image with students. Work together with students to record information in the Irony Chart, noting which images depict expected situations and which ones depict ironic situations.

- Ensure that students have the background knowledge needed to understand an ironic situation by providing them with examples of irony that involve familiar and relevant subjects. For example, *A student always oversleeps and misses the school bus. She finally manages to get to the bus stop on time ... but realizes that it’s Saturday.*

**EXTEND**

- Provide students with a set of sentence starters that introduce potentially ironic situations. Have students share their completed sentences with a partner, who should be able to explain what makes the situation ironic.

- Adapt the speech bubble activity (Practice section) by having students use the Fill-in-the-Blank Irony Comics included with this lesson. Students should write their own expected statements in the comics on the left and ironic statements in the comics on the right.

**CONNECT**

- To integrate multimedia, have students use an approved search engine to find images using the search term “examples of irony.” Students can work with a partner to create a presentation with accompanying narration to explain the irony of each image.
EXPECTED IMAGES

1. No birds allowed sign
2. Dog with obedience certificate
3. Fire hydrant
IRONIC IMAGES

1. A bird standing on a no-entry sign for birds.
2. A dog holding a certificate that reads "OBEDIENCE CERTIFICATE.
3. A fire hydrant in flames.
**Irony**

Irony is something that is the opposite of what is expected.

If the world always worked the way it was supposed to, life would be pretty boring. You’d expect an obedience school diploma to belong to a well-trained dog. You’d expect a “No birds allowed” sign to result in a bird-free area. And you’d expect a fire hydrant to … wait, what?! A fire? Yep, just when you least expect it, IRONY! (That’s what irony is, the opposite of what you expect.)

There are lots of examples of irony in real life. There are even more examples in stories, plays, and poems. Authors know that nothing gets a reader’s attention like the unexpected. Irony can be used to add humor, create suspense, or make a point about life. So, now you know to expect the unexpected!
GRAPHIC ORGANIZER: Irony Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the irony?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is expected?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the situation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picture this ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a tow truck needing to be towed by another tow truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people waiting in line to buy movie tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a student raising her hand to ask a question in math class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a robbery at a police station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a tiger looking at a group of people locked in a cage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What a beautiful day!

Yum, looks delicious!

Ouch, that hurt!

Wow, what's that sweet smell!

continued on next page
IRONY COMICS

Ugh, your feet stink!

Well, that felt good.

Yuck, looks terrible!

What awful weather!
FILL-IN-THE-BLANK IRONY COMICS

Expectation ➔ Irony

Expectation ➔ Irony

continued on next page
FILL-IN-THE-BLANK IRONY COMICS

Expectation

Irony

Expectation

Irony

Expectation

Irony
ANSWER KEYS

Irony Sorting Cards
Ironic: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7
Expected: 2, 3, 8, 9, 10

Irony Comics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected</th>
<th>Ironic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PREPARE**

**CONCEPT** Irony is something that is the opposite of what is expected. Authors often use irony as a literary device to add humor, build suspense, or make a point. Irony can draw attention to an idea, event, or central message. Three types of irony are situational, verbal, and dramatic.

**VOCABULARY** dramatic irony, irony, literary device, situational irony, verbal irony

**MATERIALS** Lesson reproducibles

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**INSTRUCT**

Read aloud Story 1 from the set of Instruct Ironic Stories included with this lesson. Pause before reading the ending, and ask students to describe what they expect to happen next. Then, read the final sentence, and ask students to explain how the actual ending is different from what they expected *(The actual ending is the opposite of what was expected)*. Record student responses in a graphic organizer, like the included Irony Chart. *(A Completed Irony Chart is also included for reference.)*

Repeat this exercise with Stories 2 and 3.

Explain to students that the difference between what is going on and what is expected is called **irony**. Irony is a literary device used by authors for effect—to add humor, build suspense, or make a point. Each of the examples given above represents a different type of irony: situational irony (Story 1), verbal irony (Story 2), and dramatic irony (Story 3).

Define the terms:

- Irony is something that is the opposite of what is expected.
- A literary device is a technique used by an author to create a specific effect.
- Situational irony is the difference between what is expected and what happens.
- Verbal irony is the difference between what’s said and what’s meant: sarcasm.
- Dramatic irony is when the audience knows something that the character doesn’t.

Refer students to the Anchor Chart to develop understanding:

1. Support students in making a connection between the images on the chart and the passages they analyzed. Point out that all are examples of irony because they depict the opposite of what is expected.
2. Read the *So, what’s in it for me?* section with students, and discuss the use of irony in stories, plays, and poems.

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**PRACTICE**

- Distribute the set of Practice Ironic Stories included with this lesson. Have students use a graphic organizer, like the Irony Chart included with this lesson, or have them create their own by labeling three columns: *What is the situation? What is expected?* and *What is the irony?* Students should record the situation described in each passage, determine the expected ending, and describe the actual (ironic) ending. When students have completed the Irony Chart, bring them together to discuss the examples of irony.

*continued on next page*
• Play Ironic or Not? Provide students with the Irony Game Boards and Cards included with this lesson. Have students take turns with a partner determining whether or not the scenario described on each card is ironic. As in Tic-Tac-Toe, student pairs record their answers on the same game board; the winner is the first to mark three squares in a row. For a more active version of the game, place cards in various locations around the room. Then, have students find each card and mark the answer on the game board.

• Have students create an Irony Puzzler. Distribute the Puzzler Template included with this lesson. Have students cut out and fold the paper according to the directions. Students should ask a partner to choose one section of the puzzler at a time, ultimately revealing two possible endings to a story, one expected and one ironic. Student pairs can work together to determine which ending is ironic.

### ADAPT

**SUPPORT**

• Give students additional practice identifying irony. Display the Names list included with this lesson. Have students determine whether the person or animal in each example has an ironic or expected name. The name Tiny, for example, is ironic when it belongs to the world’s largest dog.

• Adapt the Ironic or Not? game by reading aloud each card to students. Model how to think about irony by working together to identify expected and ironic statements or endings. Students may also benefit from illustrating the scenarios.

**EXTEND**

• Have students create their own Irony Cards to use with the Irony Game Board (Practice section). Challenge students to generate examples of situational irony, verbal irony, and dramatic irony, as well as non-examples of each.

• Adapt the Irony Puzzler activity (Practice section) by having students write their own two endings for each story: an expected ending and an ironic ending. Then, have students share their puzzlers with a partner. (An Incomplete Puzzler Template is included with this lesson.)

### CONNECT

• To integrate multimedia, have students work with a partner or in small groups to act out one of the ironic stories included with this lesson. Students can create a video to present along with an explanation of the irony in their skit.
IRONIC STORIES: Instruct

Story 1

Archibald Cole lives in a cold city. Not just any cold city. A cold city with icy winds, frozen rivers, and an arctic chill that freezes his eyes shut before he even thinks about crying. So, Archibald saves his money to take a vacation on a tropical island. Not just any tropical island. A tropical island with warm water, hot sand, sunny skies, and a fruity drink served in a coconut shell with a little umbrella. On the long plane ride to the island, Archibald dreams happily about his vacation of a lifetime.

Pause and ask students, “What do you expect will happen next?”

When Archibald gets off the plane, it is cold. The temperature hits a record low—even colder than in the city Archibald just left. During his vacation, it actually snows on the island for the first time ever.

Story 2

Tessa Mayhew is a new college student. Her parents helped her move into her dorm room last month, and it’s already a mess. Piles of clothes are on the bed. Blankets and pillows are on the floor. Empty pizza boxes are in the closet. A few not-quite-empty cereal bowls are on the desk. None of this bothers Tessa, but she worries what her father will think when he visits for Parents Weekend. He doesn’t even like wrinkled pillowcases! When her father arrives, he looks around the room and takes a deep breath.

Pause and ask students, “What do you expect Tessa’s father will say?”

Then, he says, “I really like what you’ve done with the place.”

Story 3

It’s a beautiful summer day at Hero Beach. Children are building sandcastles, families are picnicking, and swimmers are cooling off in the ocean. No one can see the 20-foot shark moving slowly toward Dario Bates as he paddles his surfboard farther and farther from shore. Dario sits up and lets his legs dangle over the edge of the board. The shark focuses on its target. Dario sees a perfect wave and thinks how lucky he is to have the entire afternoon to surf.

Pause and ask students, “What does Dario expect will happen next?”

The shark gains speed as it moves toward Dario, like an arrow toward a target. When it is directly under the surfer, it opens its jaws and attacks.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the irony?</th>
<th>The vacation is cold and snowy. This is the opposite of what is expected.</th>
<th>Tess's father gives her a compliment. This is the opposite of what he is expected to say.</th>
<th>The shark attacks Dario. This is the opposite of what he expects.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is expected?</td>
<td>Archibald will enjoy a warm vacation on the island.</td>
<td>Tess's father will tell her how awful her room looks.</td>
<td>The shark attacks Dario. This is the opposite of what he expects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the situation?</td>
<td>Archibald lives in a cold city and is looking forward to taking a vacation on a tropical island.</td>
<td>Tess's college dorm room is a mess. Tess's father is visiting, and he does not like messiness.</td>
<td>Dario is going surfing. He doesn't know that there is a shark in the ocean about to attack him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Irony is something that is the opposite of what is expected.

If the world always worked the way it was supposed to, life would be pretty boring. You’d expect an obedience school diploma to belong to a well-trained dog. You’d expect a “No birds allowed” sign to result in a bird-free area. And you’d expect a fire hydrant to … wait, what?! A fire? Yep, just when you least expect it, IRONY! (That’s what irony is, the opposite of what you expect.)

There are lots of examples of irony in real life. There are even more examples in stories, plays, and poems. Authors know that nothing gets a reader’s attention like the unexpected. Irony can be used to add humor, create suspense, or make a point about life. So, now you know to expect the unexpected!
IRONY: Part B

**Irony: Part B**

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**IRONIC STORIES: Practice**

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**Story 1**

Sadie Alomar is not having a good year. It is only October, and she has lost her homework 19 times, forgotten her lunch 11 times, tripped in the school hallway 4 times, and missed the school bus every single morning. Sadie decides to make some changes, starting with the school bus situation. On Monday morning, she wakes up at 5:30, gets ready, eats breakfast, says goodbye to her mother, and makes it to the bus stop by 6:40. The bus doesn’t usually arrive until 7 o’clock, so Sadie sits on a bench to wait.

⇒ *Ask yourself, “What do I expect will happen next?”*

Sadie is so tired from waking up early that she falls asleep. She doesn’t notice that the bus has come and gone until she sees it disappear around the corner.

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**Story 2**

Mr. Strickland is, well, strict. He begins every class with a quiz. He assigns two hours of homework every night. And he never, ever smiles. One the last day of school before summer vacation, he announces, “We will not begin today’s class with a quiz, and there will be no homework assignment.” Then, he smiles. “We will have a quiz at the end of class today, and you will complete what I would have assigned as homework during class. Are there any questions?” Only one student raises his hand.

⇒ *Ask yourself, “What do I expect the student will say?”*

The student says, “Thank you, Mr. Strickland. You are just too good to us.”

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**Story 3**

A jeweler sells a rare diamond to a customer in Brazil. The diamond is worth so much that the jeweler hires 20 security guards and an armored jet to deliver the gem. A clever jewel thief disguises herself as one of the security guards, planning to steal the diamond just before the jet takes off. The even-more-clever jeweler places a gumball in a fancy velvet box and hands it off to the security guards. He packs the real diamond in a shoebox wrapped in brown paper and mails it to Brazil. Meanwhile, the jewel thief follows her plan and steals the velvet box. She laughs at how easy it was to trick everyone.

⇒ *Ask yourself, “What does the jewel thief expect will happen next?”*

When the jewel thief finally opens the velvet box, she sees the gumball and realizes that she is the one who has been tricked.

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**IRONY GAME BOARDS**

**IRONY or Not?**

**DIRECTIONS:**
Read each card aloud. Think about the ending...
Is it the opposite of what you expected? Did somebody say the opposite of what they really mean? Is it the opposite of what a character expected? That's IRONY!

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<th>Card #_____</th>
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**FREE**

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**FREE**

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</table>
IRONY GAME CARDS

Long ago, Vikings sailed from Norway through the Arctic Ocean. They found two islands: Iceland and Greenland. If you ever have a chance to visit Iceland, you’ll notice that it has plenty of green grass. Greenland, on the other hand, is covered with ice and snow.

I’m so stressed out. Between homework, soccer practice, art class, volunteer work, chores at home, and a part-time job, I have no time to just relax. I thought signing up for a relaxation class might help, but trying to fit one more thing into my already busy schedule is stressing me out even more.

The score is tied. There are three seconds left in the game, and Vince knows this is his team’s last chance at making the playoffs. The referee’s whistle blows, and Vince speeds down the court and around the other team’s defense. He takes a shot at the basket. Will it go in? Yes! The Wildcats are one step closer to becoming state champions.

Eyelashes are designed to protect your eyes. Those hairs at the end of your eyelids help keep out dust, sand, and other things. Have you ever noticed, though, that when you have something stuck in your eye, it’s usually an eyelash?

Sarah has been afraid of heights ever since she fell off the monkey bars in kindergarten. Now that she’s a senior in high school, she decides to conquer her fear. She starts slowly by taking the elevator to the top of a skyscraper and looking out the window. She keeps pushing herself and eventually works her way up to skydiving.

Cam D. Mann owns a popular candy shop. When customers can’t decide what to buy, he always has helpful suggestions. He makes sure all his candy is delicious by tasting one of each kind—twice a day, every day. Around town, Mr. Mann is known as The Candy Man.

Juan recently accepted a job offer from Iron E, a large technology company. Today is his first day of work. He puts on his best suit, shines his shoes, and grabs his keys. As he walks toward his car, he sees that all four tires are flat. “Oh, great,” he groans. “This is just what I need!”

Camilla Olsen is late for school almost every day. The school principal calls Camilla’s parents and asks them to come in. The Olsen family arrives for the meeting, but the principal is not there. After twenty minutes, he rushes in and apologizes, “I’m so sorry I’m late.”
**PUZZLER TEMPLATE**

1. You buy a special shampoo that is supposed to make your hair thicker.
2. It makes your hair thicker.
3. It makes your hair fall out.
4. "Is that the best you can do?"
5. "Nice job!"
6. The weather on the island is cold and rainy.
7. The weather on the island is warm and sunny.
8. Its name is Jumbo.
9. Its name is Tiny.
10. You hate cold weather, so you plan a vacation on a tropical island.
11. You get every question correct on a math test. Your teacher says,
12. Your friend's dog is a Great Dane that weighs more than you.

**Answers:**

- Orange: You buy a special shampoo that is supposed to make your hair thicker.
- Yellow: It makes your hair thicker.
- Red: It makes your hair fall out.
- Green: "Is that the best you can do?"
- Blue: "Nice job!"
- Brown: The weather on the island is cold and rainy.
- Pink: The weather on the island is warm and sunny.
- Purple: Its name is Jumbo.
- Black: Its name is Tiny.
- 2: You hate cold weather, so you plan a vacation on a tropical island.
- 3: You get every question correct on a math test. Your teacher says,
- 4: Your friend's dog is a Great Dane that weighs more than you.
**NAMES**

1. an adorable toy poodle named Beast
2. a snail named Lightning
3. a clown named Happy
4. a record-breaking sprinter named Flash
5. a bald man named Curly
6. a 100-year-old woman named Baby
7. a weather forecaster named Stormy
8. a killer whale named Sweetie
9. an artist named Art
10. an elephant named Jumbo
INCOMPLETE PUZZLER TEMPLATE

You buy a special shampoo that is supposed to make your hair thicker.

RED ORANGE GREEN BLUE PURPLE PINK BROWN

You hate cold weather, so you plan a vacation on a tropical island.

Your friend’s dog is a Great Dane that weighs more than you.

You get every question correct on a math test. Your teacher says,

Your teacher says, "Your friend’s dog is a Great Dane that weighs more than you."
ANSWER KEYS

**Irony Game**
*Ironic*: 1, 4, 5, 6, 8  
*Not Ironic*: 2, 3, 7

**Names**
*Ironic*: 1, 2, 5, 6, 8  
*Not Ironic*: 3, 4, 7, 9, 10