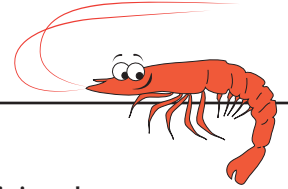


# Obvious Oxymoron

## ANSWERS



An **oxymoron** is a play on words where two or more opposite words or ideas are joined to create a comical or dramatic emphasis.

Example:

These **jumbo shrimp** are delicious!

The words *jumbo shrimp* together create an oxymoron because shrimp are not big. They're typically tiny.

Student explanations may vary.

**Directions:** Read the sentences below. Circle the oxymoron and then describe its meaning.

1. The principal told the students they were awfully lucky they didn't get a tardy slip.

This is an oxymoron because the words *awfully* and *lucky* are contradictory words. The principal is emphasizing how lucky the students are they didn't get a tardy slip.

2. I'd love to learn more about how to play virtual reality games.

This is an oxymoron because the words *virtual* and *reality* are opposite words. The idea of playing a game and calling it reality is ludicrous because a game is not real life.

3. There was a deafening silence after the class clown told a disrespectful joke.

The writer uses *deafening* and *silence* to create an oxymoron and highlight the fact that the room was completely silent. The class presumably didn't know how to react to the disrespectful joke, but everyone understood it was disrespectful.

4. It's a beautiful day at the beach and I'm busy relaxing.

This is an oxymoron because the words *relaxing* and *busy* are used as a joke to emphasize the fact that the person is doing nothing but relaxing on the beach. It may even imply that the person wants to do nothing more than relax.

5. "Before I decide, I need an exact estimate on how much we'll spend on the tickets," said Mom.

The mom wants to know the exact amount of the tickets, but she may understand that it's not possible to know the exact amount. She would like a ballpark price so she can make an informed decision. She uses the contradictory words *exact* and *estimate* to create the oxymoron.