

L.8.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

## Oxymoron

Have you ever wondered about terms like “found missing,” “alone together” or “small crowd?” These terms are called oxymorons. An oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines two opposing or contradictory ideas.

Examples:

Jumbo Shrimp  
Big Baby  
Cowardly Lion

Practice

A. Match the words in the first column to a word in the second column so that when the two words are combined an oxymoron is formed.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Artificial

A. Adult

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. New

B. Gossip

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Awfully

C. Student

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Civil

D. Ordinary

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Extra

E. Grass

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. True

F. Landfill

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Graduate

G. War

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Young

H. Pretty

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Sanitary

I. Classic

"O brawling love! O loving hate! . . .  
O heavy lightness! serious vanity!  
Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!  
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick  
health!  
Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!  
This love feel I, that feel no love in this."

(William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet)

"A yawn may be defined as a silent yell."

(G.K. Chesterton)

That is the Grasshopper's—he takes the lead  
In summer luxury,—he has never done  
With his delights; for when tired out with fun  
He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.

(John Keats)