

Oxymoron (Greek origin: sharp & dull)	A paradoxical figure of speech (consisting of contradictory terms)
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Highlight the oxymorons in the passage below:

It was an open secret that the company had used a paid volunteer to test the plastic glasses. Although they were made using liquid gas technology and were an original copy that looked almost exactly like a more expensive brand, the volunteer thought that they were pretty ugly and that it would be simply impossible for the general public to accept them. On hearing this feedback, the company board was clearly confused and there was a deafening silence. This was a minor crisis and the only choice was to drop the product line.

(Much Ado About English. Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2006)

99 Oxymorons

1. "absent presence"
(Astrophil and Stella by Sir Philip Sidney)
2. alone together
3. awful good
4. "beggarly riches"
(Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions by John Donne)
5. bitter sweet
6. "brisk vacancy"
(*"Self Portrait in a Convex Mirror"* by John Ashbery)
7. cheerful pessimist
8. civil war
9. clearly misunderstood
10. "comfortable misery"
(One Door Away From Heaven by Dean Koontz)
11. conspicuous absence
12. cool passion
13. crash landing
14. cruel kindness

Metaphor	A comparison not using the word "like" or "as"
Hyperbole	An extreme exaggeration
Personification	Giving human qualities to animals or objects
Simile	A comparison using "like" or "as"

She is as sweet as pie.

Time is money.

The stars in the sky blinked and winked.

The dog froze with fear.

I'm starving.

She has a bubbly personality.

My wife is driving me crazy.

The street felt as hot as the surface of the sun.

This pudding is as smooth as silk.

The leaves on the ground danced in the wind.

The teenagers will just die if they don't go to the party.

It flew as high as a kite.

The internet is the information super highway.

The teapot sang as the water boiled.

My husband snores louder than a freight train.