

1.12 Oxymoron and Paradox

Pip and Pep are getting ready to go out to dinner. They are arguing about where they should go.

Pep: I don't want to go to dinner there.

Pip: Why?

Pep: Because the food is horrible and it is too expensive.

Pip: Well, how about Luigi's? I've heard that their pizza is awful good.

Pep: I don't know, I've heard nobody goes there because it's too busy.

Pip: Well that makes no sense.

Pep: What makes no sense?

Pip: "Nobody goes there because it is too busy"...That makes no sense. If no one goes there then it is empty, not busy.

Pep: Well, you know what I mean. Wait....you said something that makes no sense, too.

Pip: I did?

Pep: Yes you did. You said, "the pizza is awful good." How is that possible? How can something be awful and good at the same time?

Pip: Wow, I guess you're right. What is that called?

Pep: I don't know. Let me google it on my phone. Just a sec.

Pip: Ok

Pep: So, I typed in "awful good" and it says that it is an oxymoron.

Pip: A what?

Pep: An oxymoron, it says that it is a part of speech that happens when you contradict something...oh, look at this, it says that it come from a Greek word meaning "sharp dull."

Pip: Ahahaha! That is too funny. I had a cousin once who was a sharp dull.

Pep: What happened to him?

Pip: He turned up missing.

Pep: He what?

Pip: He...ahh, got it, another oxymoron. How could he turn up and be missing at the same time?

Pep: Right.

Pip: Man, I bet we use a lot of oxymorons all the time. Like, the oxymoron you said before "nobody goes there because it is too busy."

Pep: No, that's not an oxymoron.

Pip: It's not?

Pep: No, that was a paradox; I looked that up, too.

Pip: Wait, what is a paradox?

Pep: A paradox is like an oxymoron only it's more about a whole situation not just a couple of words that are contradictory.

Pip: *(sarcastically)* Oh, yeah that totally makes sense.

Pep: *(shocked)* It does?

Pip: *(defeated)* No.

Pep: *(frustrated)* That figures. Listen, my mom used to say that I wasn't allowed near the water until I could swim. Do you see why that doesn't make sense?

Pip: Of course. How could you learn how to swim if you couldn't ...OHHHH I get it!

Pep: Yes! And that makes me think about my grandpa. He always used to say that we have learned from history that we don't learn from history.

Pip: Whoa! That's deep.

Pep: I know.

Pip: Thinking this much makes me hungry. Are you ready for dinner?

Pep: Yeah. Why don't we just go here? Or is it too busy for you?

Pip: No, this is fine. They look like a peaceful mob of people.

Pep: Hahahaha....peaceful mob...HILARIOUS!

Author - Ann Phillips