



Thinking about the Language

I. Consult your dictionary and choose the correct word from the pairs given in brackets.

1. The (site, cite) of the accident was (ghastly/ghostly).
2. Our college (principle/principal) is very strict.
3. I studied (continuously/continually) for eight hours.
4. The fog had an adverse (affect/effect) on the traffic.
5. Cezanne, the famous French painter, was a brilliant (artist/artiste).
6. The book that you gave me yesterday is an extraordinary (collage/college) of science fiction and mystery.
7. Our school will (host/hoist) an exhibition on cruelty to animals and wildlife conservation.
8. Screw the lid tightly onto the top of the bottle and (shake/shape) well before using the contents.

Answer:

1. The site of the accident was ghastly.
2. Our college principal is very strict.
3. I studied continuously for eight hours.
4. The fog had an adverse effect on the traffic.
5. Cezanne, the famous French painter, was a brilliant artist.
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II. Irony is when we say one thing but mean another, usually the opposite of what we say. When someone makes a mistake and you say, "Oh! That was clever!" that is irony. You're saying 'clever' to mean 'not clever'.

Expressions we often use in an ironic fashion are:

- Oh, wasn't that clever!/Oh that was clever!
- You have been a great help, I must say!
- You've got yourself into a lovely mess, haven't you?
- Oh, very funny!/How funny!

We use a slightly different tone of voice when we use these words ironically.

Read the play carefully and find the words and expressions Gerrard uses in an ironic way. Then say what these expressions really mean. Two examples have been given below. Write down three such expressions along with what they really mean.

| What the author says                  | What he means  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Why, this is a surprise, Mr -<br>er - | He pretends that the intruder is a social visitor whom he is welcoming. In this way he hides his fear.                             |
| At last a sympathetic audience!       | He pretends that the intruder wants to listen to him, whereas actually the intruder wants to find out information for his own use. |

Answer:

| What the author says   | What he means  |
|--|--|
| You won't kill me for a very good reason.  | Gerrard is just pretending to have a 'very good reason' even though there is no such reason.   |
| Sorry I can't let you have the props in time for rehearsal, I've had a spot of bother - quite amusing. | The 'spot of bother' that Gerrard calls 'quite amusing' is actually a life-threatening situation, where a criminal actually threatens to kill him. |
| You have been so modest.   | Here, Gerrard means that it is immodest on the part of the intruder to know so much about him without disclosing his own identity.                 |

\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*