

Exercise walk-through

8.3

Word choice, comparisons, and syntax

AP English Language and Composition

Irony is a gap – name both sides of it

- A writer's **style** is the **mix of word choice, syntax, and conventions** employed by that writer.
- Writers may signal a **complex or ironic perspective** through stylistic choices. **Irony** may emerge from the difference between what is said and what is meant.

Irony is a gap – name both sides of it, in detail

Irony is a gap - and analysis means naming both sides of it

WHAT THE WORDS CLAIM

"The results, such as they were,
arrived exactly on schedule."

a compliment about punctuality

THE GAP



= the
irony

WHAT THE WRITER MEANS

the results were not worth having,
so punctuality is the only praise
left - and it is worth nothing

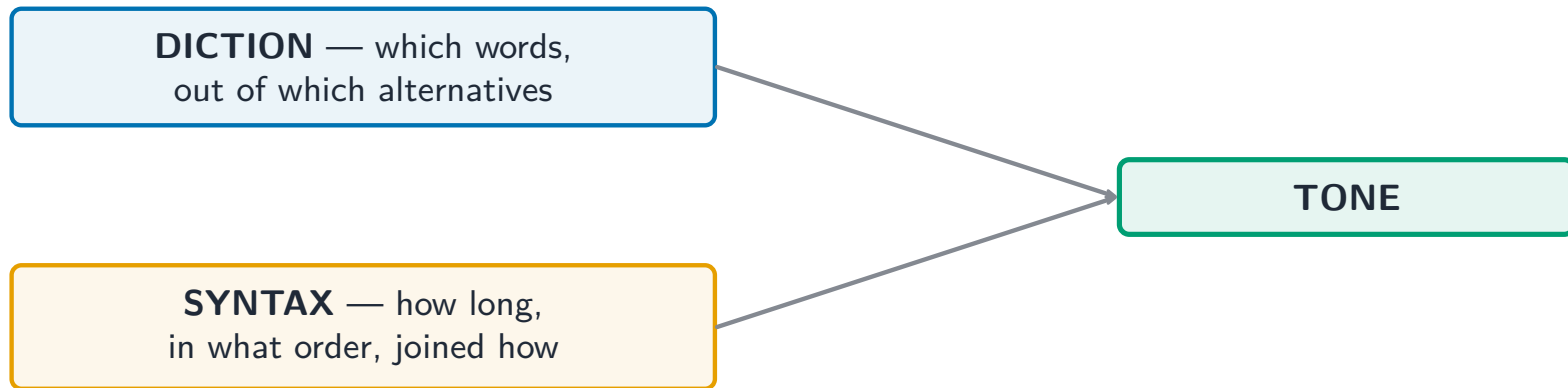
How to FIND it without intuition: look for a sentence whose literal content clashes with its surroundings - praise beside damaging evidence, calm beside outrage.

Writers may signal a **complex or ironic perspective** through stylistic choices.

Word Choice, Comparisons, and Syntax

- A writer's **style** is the **mix of word choice, syntax, and conventions** employed by that writer. Style is a *composite*, which is why "the writer's style is formal" is not analysis – it names the result without any of the components.
- Writers may signal a **complex or ironic perspective** through stylistic choices.
Irony may emerge from the difference between what is said and what is meant, or between what is expected and what occurs.

Tone has two inputs



the same words in a different sentence shape carry a different attitude — which is why syntax is evidence and not decoration

The test: rewrite the passage keeping the **words** and changing the **shape**. Whatever changes was being carried by the syntax

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State what “we” does to a reader.

[2]

2.2 Explain what an unanswered rhetorical question implies.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State what “we” does to a reader.

[2]

2.1

- it enrolls the reader in the writer’s position before any argument has been made

2.2 Explain what an unanswered rhetorical question implies.

[2]

2.2

- that the answer is obvious and needs no argument, which makes it a claim rather than a question

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A formal passage drops into plain speech for one sentence.

(a) State the likely effect.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

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(a) State the likely effect.

[1]

(a)

- it marks the sentence as sincere or urgent

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A formal passage drops into plain speech for one sentence.

(b) State how you would link it to purpose.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A formal passage drops into plain speech for one sentence.

(b) State how you would link it to purpose.

[1]

(b)

- say what is emphasised there and why the writer wants that point weighted

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 “They” applied to a group of people mainly

[1]

☐

A includes them in the writer’s position

B places them outside it

C has no effect

D signals concession

3.2 A rhetorical question left unanswered functions as

[1]

☐

A a genuine enquiry

B a claim

C a qualification

D a transition

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 “They” applied to a group of people mainly

[1]

☐

A includes them in the writer’s position

B places them outside it

C has no effect

D signals concession

3.1 B

- the third person places the group outside the shared position

3.2 A rhetorical question left unanswered functions as

[1]

☐

A a genuine enquiry

B a claim

C a qualification

D a transition

3.2 B

- it asserts that no answer is needed

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A speech uses “we” throughout and switches to “you” in its final paragraph.

(a) State what the switch does.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A speech uses “we” throughout and switches to “you” in its final paragraph.

(a) State what the switch does.

[1]

(a)

- it separates the audience from the writer and addresses them directly

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A speech uses “we” throughout and switches to “you” in its final paragraph.

(b) Explain why it might come at the end.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A speech uses “we” throughout and switches to “you” in its final paragraph.

(b) Explain why it might come at the end.

[2]

(b)

- the shared “we” has built agreement, and the final “you” places the responsibility to act on the listener