

6/30/24

Oxymorons

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

An oxymoron is a figure of speech that juxtaposes apparently contradictory elements, but is not a contradiction in terms. The legendary George Carlin often highlighted funny oxymorons, such as “jumbo shrimp” or “military intelligence,” in his comedy routine. But oxymorons don’t have to be funny, just contradictory—such as “ill health,” “silent alarm,” or “freezer burn.”

In this quiz, we’ve provided a sentence with one word missing. That word is one-half of a compound word or two-word oxymoron. Can you fill in the blanks correctly?

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first definition. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year’s blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may “buzz” in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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QUESTIONS

1. When the children left for camp, Tom and Julie were finally alone _____ in the house.
2. Saying goodbye was a bitter _____ moment for Angela and her daughter.
3. When Bob, who usually didn't like to make commitments, got an invitation to a golf weekend, he replied that his attendance was a definite _____.
4. Gene said that as a devout _____, he never went to church.
5. The teams were rated at even _____ of winning.
6. The homeowner insisted the contractor give an exact _____ of the remodeling cost.
7. The police said the girl was found _____ from her job early this morning.
8. The tag said that the bowl was a genuine _____ of an ancient Greek vessel.
9. At church the two women spoke in a loud _____ to each other.
10. The conservatives counted themselves as the loyal _____ to the current government.
11. The annual report showed negative _____ for the company.
12. It was an open _____ that the two had once dated.
13. The clerk insisted that he must have an original _____ of the marriage certificate.
14. Betty thought it was safer to use plastic _____ at the picnic.
15. The winning players were announced in random _____.
16. Simon and Garfunkel sang about "the sound of _____."
17. Janice lamented that her trip to Hawaii would be a working _____.
18. The candidate dismissed the scandal as old _____.

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ANSWERS

1. Together
2. Sweet
3. Maybe
4. Atheist
5. Odds
6. Estimate
7. Missing
8. Imitation
9. Whisper
10. Opposition
11. Growth
12. Secret
13. Copy
14. Glasses (*Silverware is also correct.*)
15. Order
16. Silence
17. Vacation
18. News