Figures of Speech: Verbal Irony and Puns

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 10

Quick Review

Focus on interpreting verbal irony and puns. Strong test answers are precise, purposeful, and supported by the wording of the task.

PRACTICE

Answer each question. Choose the best answer for multiple-choice items and write complete short responses.

1. Which choice BEST demonstrates interpreting verbal irony and puns?

A. Lee is sincerely praising the printer.

B. When the printer jams for the fifth time and Lee says, Perfect timing, he means the opposite.

C. Lee is giving a technical instruction.

D. Lee is asking what time it is.

2. Which revision best applies interpreting verbal irony and puns? Original: The baker said the broken oven was a half-baked situation.

A. The phrase is a pun because half-baked refers both to poor planning and to baking.

B. The baker said the broken oven was a half-baked situation.

C. Lee is sincerely praising the printer.

D. Lee is giving a technical instruction.

3. A student is working on this task: A character says Great, another surprise quiz after groaning. Which choice would be MOST effective?

A. Lee is sincerely praising the printer.

B. Lee is giving a technical instruction.

C. Recognize verbal irony because the words express the opposite of the feeling.

D. Lee is asking what time it is.

4. Which explanation best describes why the stronger choice works?

A. It is longer than the other choices, so it must be better.

B. It uses complicated words even if they do not fit.

C. It avoids evidence so the reader can decide alone.

D. It is specific, relevant to the task, and controlled by interpreting verbal irony and puns.

5. Which next step would most strengthen the student's work?
   - **A.** Add an unrelated personal story.
   - **B.** Look for contrast between words and situation.
   - **C.** Replace precise words with vague ones.
   - **D.** Remove the clearest evidence.
6. Which mistake should the student avoid?
   - **A.** Treating every joke as literal meaning.
   - **B.** Checking that each choice fits the audience.
   - **C.** Using evidence that directly supports the point.
   - **D.** Rereading the sentence after revising it.
7. Which answer is too vague to earn full credit?
   - **A.** It works because it applies interpreting verbal irony and puns to the exact task.
   - **B.** It is stronger because the evidence is relevant and sufficient.
   - **C.** It is better because it sounds good.
   - **D.** It improves clarity without changing the meaning.
8. Which habit best supports accuracy on this type of question?
   - **A.** Choose the first familiar word.
   - **B.** Ignore the audience and purpose.
   - **C.** Pick the longest answer every time.
   - **D.** Read the whole sentence or task before choosing an answer.
9. Write one sentence that uses verbal irony.

   _____

   _____
10. Explain how a pun depends on more than one meaning of a word.

    _____

    _____

Answer Keys

1	A	**B**	C	D	6	**A**	B	C	D
2	**A**	B	C	D	7	A	B	**C**	D
3	A	B	**C**	D	8	A	B	C	**D**
4	A	B	C	**D**	9	See below			
5	A	**B**	C	D	10	See below			

Explanations

1. B	The correct choice demonstrates interpreting verbal irony and puns clearly and precisely.
2. A	The revision improves the original while preserving its intended meaning.
3. C	The correct choice fits the task and gives the writer or speaker a concrete move to make.
4. D	Length and difficult vocabulary do not make an answer strong; relevance and control do.
5. B	The best next step improves clarity, support, or control of the skill.
6. A	The correct answer names a common error that weakens this skill.
7. C	A test response must explain the reason, not merely praise the answer.
8. D	Careful reading prevents attractive but wrong choices.
9.	**Answer:** Strong answers should explicitly use interpreting verbal irony and puns, stay specific, and explain the reason for the choice. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.
10.	**Answer:** Strong answers should include a corrected example or explanation that preserves meaning while improving interpreting verbal irony and puns. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.

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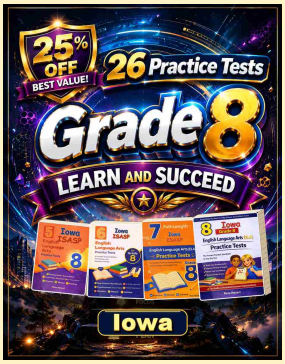

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