

Name _____

Oxymoron



Oxymoron

An oxymoron is a literary device which couples two words together that have opposing or contradictory meanings. But just putting opposites side by side isn't enough to create an oxymoron; paired, the words should create a specific effect or convey a specific meaning. Oxymoron can be used to add dramatic effect, to emphasize a concept, or to create irony or humor.

DIRECTIONS: Choose the pair of words that create an oxymoron.

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | existent fake | real fake |
| 2. | pretty ugly | beautiful ugly |
| 3. | living dead | alive dead |
| 4. | ancient news | old news |
| 5. | small multitude | small crowd |

Choose one of the oxymorons you identified and explain why that pair creates an oxymoron while the alternative version doesn't.
