Interpreting Figures of Speech

"Could you be any more polite?" Opal asked her son, Reeve.
Reeve had called his aunt "hair" when he was caught staring at her chin hair.
"It was an accident, Mom," Reeve replied, embarrassed. "I have been good at this party. I have not
thrown up after the appetizer. Not like the last time on her satin couch—"
"—Not yet," Opal completed her son's sentence. "You haven't tried the lamb stew with pumpkins
and pineapples. You will love it. Need a brown bag or a napkin?"
"Yuck," Reeve said, feeling like throwing up already. "Thanks for the offer, Mom. I promise I will
reach the bathroom this time."

1. Opal's remark "You will love it" is an example of verbal irony because

A. she means to warn Reeve about the lamb stew.
B. she is asking her son to improve his eating habits.
C. she is upset about Reeve calling the aunt "hair."
D. she means to ask her son to apologize to his aunt.

2. Opal’s dialogue with her son at the beginning of the story demonstrates verbal irony because

A. Reeve's actions have pleased Opal.
B. Reeve's remarks have not been polite.
C. she seems focused on her son's words.
D. she is extremely bored at the gathering.

"This is the perfect end to my day," Martinique yelled at the door when it suddenly started raining.
He could not find the key to the house. So, there he stood holding his cell phone with a dead battery
and watching his flat-tired car. His watch was the only functioning item he owned at the moment. He
knew it would be an hour before his mother would be home. Martinique also knew she would hate to
see grass stains on his trousers and mud on his t-shirt. He had slipped and fallen after football practice,
misplacing things in his backpack and dropping the phone in the rain.
He remembered Sahara helping him in the football field. "Don't you have all the luck!" she
exclaimed as she pulled out a Band-Aid from her purse and put it on his scraped knee.
"You always appear when I need you," Martinique said with a smile. He wished he had let her come
over to study math as she had wanted. Then, she could have helped me with my flat tire. Why did I
think I had to change, shower, and look good for a math assignment?
Martinique felt tormented by waiting for what seemed like centuries. Thoughts kept churning in his
head. Finally, his mother's sparkly red wagon appeared in the driveway.
"Don't you look fantastic, my darling," the mother uttered.

3. What is ironic about Sahara saying "Don't you have all the luck!"?
4. Which sentence from the story is an example of verbal irony?

- A. "This is the perfect end to my day,"
- B. He could not find the key to the house.
- C. Then, she could have helped me. . .
- D. "You always appear when I need you,"

5. Which of these would demonstrate sarcasm if added to the mother's dialogue?

- A. Your hair is all muddy and wet.
- B. How did you lose your braces?
- C. Look at your torn backpack!
- D. I love what you did with the outfit.

6. There once was a man with odd, talking body parts. One day, the man's head was very cold. The head had goose bumps all over it. The head asked the hand to help. The hand came up with a plan and placed a cap on the head. The head said to the hand, "Way to put on the old thinking cap!"

What is humorous about the statement that the head made to the hand?

- A. The head points out that the thinking cap is "old," which is probably meant to embarrass the hand.
- B. The hand cannot think without the head's help, so the head is being silly and rude to the hand.
- C. Hands and heads cannot really talk to each other, so anything they "said" would be humorous.
- D. A "thinking cap" is a metaphor for making a plan, and a cap is a hat that would keep the head warm.

7. A group of teachers decided to treat the students with a movie and a snack. One teacher suggested that they serve the students popcorn. Another teacher responded, "That's corny!"

What is funny about the statement "that's corny"?

- A. Popcorn comes from corn, and "corny" is a way of saying that something is too predictable.
- B. Students will want to throw the popcorn at each other, and the teachers will laugh about it.
C. The teacher is comparing children to popcorn because both of them bounce around a lot.
D. The movie will make the students laugh so much that they won't be able to eat the popcorn.

Topher was not much for compliments, but today he was handing them out to himself. He had to admit to himself how sharp he looked wearing the crisp tuxedo.

"You've looked better, son," his dad said with admiration as he saw him drive off to Grace's. "Have fun!"

"How can Grace's parents not like me?" Topher asked himself. The thought of meeting her parents robbed all confidence from him and plagued him with nervousness. He found himself shivering behind the wheel and sweating as he reached Grace's home for the first time ever. Topher rang the bell, stood in front of the door holding a red rose, and waited in agony. He was surprised to see a young man holding a baby answer the door.

"Yes?" the young man asked.
"Grace?" Topher uttered.
"The other door," the young man directed him. "You are going to go carrying that rose?" He asked, unable to resist upon seeing a nervous boy in a tuxedo.

"______," Topher replied in haste without hiding his irritation and left.

8. Topher's dad says, "You've looked better, son," to

A. compliment his son.
B. ask Topher to change clothes.
C. embarrass his son.
D. demand discipline from Topher.

9. What could Topher say at the end of the story to demonstrate verbal irony?

A. How can you say such things to me?
B. Thanks for boosting my confidence!
C. You did not help my case at all, sir.
D. Can I use your phone to call Grace?

10. After all, Carlos's first child was graduating from high school. He had never felt prouder in his life. Memories flooded his mind as he watched Juanita walk down the stage. He remembered her first moment in the world, her first crawl, her first step, her first word, and her first bicycle ride. Juanita had finished the last semester from her hospital bed, but today she was walking like everybody else. Carlos always tried to be the toughest guy he had known, but that day he cried in front of people.

"Sorry to disappoint you," Juanita said with a radiant smile and kissed her father on both cheeks. She had been off the cast for only a week now and had never complained once.

"You are the light of my life," Carlos said, clasping Juanita in an embrace. He had tried hard to hide his emotions, but he had given in. "Now, hurry up and pose for the camera."

Juanita's dialogue with her father is an example of verbal irony because

A. she wants him to acknowledge her success.
B. she is actually happy to make him proud.
C. she dislikes his toughness of feelings.
D. she is getting ready to have pictures taken.

11. Mrs. Sue says, "Well, thank God this is over," to show

A. that she is worn out from years of teaching.
B. she is thankful the semester is finished.
C. she wants a better teacher for the kids.
D. that she is sad to be leaving the students.

12. Which of these best shows that "Trust me, you want to get rid of me as much as I want to get away from you" is an example of verbal irony?

A. Mrs. Sue feels like she has not done a good job with the kids.
B. Mrs. Sue is not going to be teaching the students anymore.
Aleya had almost made it. Nobody could have believed that she actually baked the red velvet cake and carried it on a glass tray by herself to the Student Center. "Anyone who knows me is familiar with my grace and skills," Aleya told herself. She had not made it to school a single day without falling down one place or another. In fact, she'd had close encounters with all the ditches and potholes on the way to school. Once, her hair caught on fire in the chemistry lab.

The whole crowd watched as Aleya slowly balanced her steps and almost approached the Student Center. "They just might think differently of me," she told herself and smiled. The bake sale table was two steps away, and Aleya's smile was never more radiant. She bent down carefully to place the cake on the table when her friend Josh offered to help her. He attempted to carry the cake without Aleya's permission, and disaster struck. The cake fell on the ground, the tray broke into pieces, and Aleya's heart sank. "Well, thanks, Josh," she nearly screamed and stormed out of the Student Center.

13. What is ironic about Aleya telling herself "Anyone who knows me is familiar with my grace and skills"?

O A. She hates walking to school alone.
O B. She is unaware of what people think.
O C. She does not like baking delicacies.
O D. She knows that she is pretty clumsy.

14. What Aleya says to Josh is sarcastic because

O A. she is thankful that her attempt of being graceful is over.
O B. she is generally doing things at the Student Center alone.
O C. she is not grateful for his role in the cake disaster.
O D. she is confused about Josh trying to help her at all.

15. Dina was not the most graceful person in the world, but she hated it when people caught her in action. Anytime she fell in an embarrassing manner, there was almost always a witness to the disaster. The worst fall of all was when Dina tumbled down a flight of stairs, broke the handle of her suitcase, and tore the sleeve of her suit jacket. To make the matters worse, Ralph, her crush, was about to give her a ride to the airport. "Are you okay?" Ralph asked, giving her a hand. "Never been better," Dina responded, turning red.

Dina's response "Never been better" is ironic because

O A. she is thankful about getting help from Ralph.
O B. she actually feels embarrassed before Ralph.
O C. she is laughing about her misery and pain.
O D. she feels inspired by Ralph to toughen up.
16. There once was a man with odd, talking body parts. The man's arms, hands, and head could speak to each other. One day, the man's right arm said to the left arm, "I have an itch. _______"

Which response best completes the joke with a pun?

- A. Could you please stretch me out?
- B. Why don't we trade places?
- C. Will you please lend me a hand?
- D. What are you looking at?

17. Carrie dropped the bowl as she was trying to put it into the refrigerator. It fell to floor, and lettuce, tomatoes, mushrooms, and peppers spilled out everywhere.

Sheila said, "That gives new meaning to tossed salad."

What is humorous about Sheila's statement?

- A. Sheila wants Carrie to clean up the mess she made when she spilled the salad onto the floor.
- B. People think it's funny when others drop things, so Sheila is pointing out that Carrie is clumsy.
- C. Carrie didn't know how to toss the salad, so Sheila tells her how to do it without making a mess.
- D. Salads are usually tossed with tongs, but Carrie's salad is literally tossed onto the floor by accident.

18. I am a college student. I am studying to be an accountant—someone who keeps track of businesses' finances. Right now, I don't have much money to buy things or to go out with my friends. I am pretty good at baking bread and cakes. Therefore, I got a job as a baker because _______.

Which phrase completes the pun in the following sentence from the passage?

Therefore, I got a job as a baker because _______.

- A. I smell like flour
- B. I am soft
19. Cheryl could not believe that Joyce would not be pleased at all. She had tried everything in her power to appease the unruly child. From baking his favorite cake to buying him another hamster, Cheryl had tried hard all day. She knew Joyce got that way when he was sick, but today was a little unusual even for him.

"Is there anything at all I can do for you, sweetie?" she asked Joyce, trying to find a way out.
"Yes," Joyce responded, giving hopes to his mother. "I want a baby elephant."

Cheryl, finding herself exhausted, exclaimed in frustration, "You make me so happy I could cry!"

The dialogue "You make me so happy I could cry" is ironic because

- C. Cheryl thinks Joyce needs more hamsters.
- B. Cheryl bakes delicacies for a sick child.
- C. Cheryl is actually upset about the situation.
- D. Cheryl is confused about Joyce's desire.

20. Raquel was attending a wedding reception. She went through the line and got a big piece of wedding cake. She went to join a few of her friends at a table. Raquel commented to her friend Ryan, "This cake is really good. You should go get some."

Ryan replied, "No, I don't like cake. I don't want to have to get the cake and eat it, too."

What is humorous about Ryan's statement?

- A. Ryan knows that Raquel is trying to trick him into eating bad cake.
- B. Ryan doesn't want Raquel to know that he has already had cake.
- C. Ryan is using a common saying to express his dislike for cake.
- D. Ryan wants some cake, but he is too lazy to wait in line for it.

21. Juan whistled on his way to the library. He smiled at the birds perched on the sycamore tree. He would have blown a kiss to the clear sky if he had known that no one was watching. He would have also frolicked down the sidewalk if he had been younger than 13 years old. Juan felt so good that he started singing his favorite song about spring. As he looked upon the budding leaves, he was overcome with joy.

"You look ecstatic," Benito said tapping Juan from behind.
"Well, I certainly hate this terrible weather," Juan responded, giving Benito a high-five.

What is ironic about Juan's response to Benito?
22. The Smiths had a fancy party at their home. Their dog, Winslow, was allowed to stay inside during the party. Winslow was very well-behaved. He walked quietly around the room and stopped to sit by a group of guests that were talking. One female party guest said to a male guest, "Did you notice that the dog has a fur coat and pants?"

What is humorous about the guest's question to the other guest?

- A. The female party guest's question is funny because she is a female talking to a male party guest about fashion.
- B. "Pants" can mean that the dog is breathing fast or that it is wearing a clothing item that covers its lower body.
- C. It sounds like the woman is jealous of the dog's fur, and she is trying to see if anyone else likes it better than her outfit.
- D. Winslow is showing very good manners, so the lady's statement is funny because she is being rude to the dog.

23. Robby never showed up to anywhere on time. He arrived to every class in the middle of the lecture. He even showed up for practice after his friends were already tired and sweaty playing volleyball. Anyone who knew Robby was prepared to wait for his arrival.

But, it was all about to change. Robby was actually in charge of the homecoming float. He had promised to be at the stadium early to help install the float. In fact, Robby had told his friends that this was his chance to change people's impression of himself.

When the day of the parade arrived, Robby's friends were thrilled. The float was ready. It was going to win the competition. Robby only needed to hook up the float to the truck. He was the best mechanic in eighth grade. The work would only take half an hour, and Robby was skilled and fast.

Today, I am going to show them, Robby thought and walked with the tool box toward the stadium. He took light, happy steps. When he reached the stadium, he was shocked to see his float already mingling with the other floats. Then, he remembered that he had forgotten to set his alarm to go off at six.

"Boy, am I early!" he said to himself, ashamed.

What is ironic about Robby's response from the story?

- A. Robby believes he has changed his impression.
- B. Robby is feeling embarrassed about being late.
- C. Robby is unaware of his being late for the float.
- D. Robby thinks his friends messed up the float.

24. Sunny watches his son Socrato walk down the stage and greet the president. All applaud for
the valedictorian. Viviane, Socarto's mother, finds her eyes moist with happiness.

"Mom, Dad—Congratulations!" Socarto tells his parents with a beaming smile.

"You certainly seem to have made a mess of things," Sunny exclaims, clasping Socrato in an embrace.

What is ironic about this sentence from the story?

"You certainly seem to have made a mess of things," Sunny exclaims, clasping Socrato in an embrace.

A. Socrato is unable to walk down the stage much gracefully.
B. Sunny is unsatisfied with Socrato's being a valedictorian.
C. Viviane dislikes Socrato's wrinkled graduation gown.
D. Sunny means to congratulate Socrato on his success.

25. Look at the opening of a joke below.

Two pencils competed in a race.

Which of these responses completes the joke with a pun?

A. They forgot their shoes.
B. The result was a draw.
C. They ran in major style.
D. The paper was slippery.

26. While playing miniature golf, Amanda sat inside the mouth of a hippopotamus sculpture. Her friend Justin said, "That hippo has a real potty mouth!"

Why is Justin's statement considered to be a pun?

A. Amanda said some bad words, so she went and hid inside of the hippo's mouth.
B. It would be very scary to sit inside the mouth of a real hippopotamus.
C. Justin is referring to a toilet and to using inappropriate language.
D. Hippos are known for eating people, and Amanda was the size of a large pot.

27. Look at the opening of a joke below.

Why did they throw away the old calendar?

Which of these responses completes the joke with a pun?
28. The low-ranking soldiers in the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) were all friends with each other. However, they did not get along well with their commanding officers.

One of the soldiers said, "Let's throw a private party."

A second soldier responded with another pun.

Which of the following statements would be the best response for the second soldier?

- A. The general population is not invited.
- B. I hope we don't run out of party supplies.
- C. I'll make some homemade refreshments.
- D. We'll play rock and country music.

29.

Nadia had seen the best of times and the worst of times in her school. But, she had constantly maintained her grades. When Mrs. Sue came to Woodland High as the new English teacher, things changed for everyone, including Nadia. Mrs. Sue expected her students to be at the Advanced Placement level classes and challenged them each and every day.

It was no surprise when she tested her students' knowledge of world literature on the midterm. During the quiz, the students were sweating like horses at the finish line of a racetrack on a Texas summer day.

"So, how was it?" Nadia asked her best friend Paul after the test. "Didn't see that coming."

"Oh, I thought it was pleasant," Paul replied, wiping sweat from his brow. "Like a root canal."

Why is Paul's response at the end of the story an example of verbal irony?

- A. because Nadia helps him study for the exam
- B. because he feels the exam was painfully tough
30. One Monday morning at school, Anuja made Tiesha laugh really hard. When Tiesha regained her breath, she said, "Anuja, you crack me up!"
   Anuja wittily replied, "I don't know how you stay intact with all of that cracking up."
   Tiesha fell into another fit of laughter, and Anuja grinned.

   What is funny about Anuja's statement: "I don't know how you stay intact with all of that cracking up"?
   
   - A. Tiesha knows that Anuja likes to crack eggs and throw them at her.
   - B. Tiesha has to wrap herself in tape to keep from breaking apart.
   - C. Anuja pretends that she does not know why Tiesha is laughing.
   - D. Anuja uses the literal meaning of "cracking up" to make a joke.

31. Sarcasm is a form of verbal **irony**. Which statement below demonstrates sarcasm?

   - A. A baseball fan remarks, "I just love lots of homework on opening night of the World Series!"
   - B. A basketball fan remarks, "Watching Michael Jordan play ball knocks my socks off!"
   - C. A soccer fan remarks, "That goalie is in way over his head."
   - D. A football fan remarks, "That receiver's face was as white as a ghost, as the ball whizzed past his hands."

32. Lisa was surprised to see that her sister thought taking the students to the maze was a great idea. "Aren't you the thoughtful one?" she asked, failing to hide her irritation at the suggestion. "What if someone gets lost, stuck, and scared? I teach second graders!"
   "Aren't you going to be with them?" Livy asked. "I thought kids liked playing hide-and-seek type of games."
   "Not with 20 of them at once!" Lisa said, dismissing the maze idea immediately. "It is not hide-and-seek, Livy. It is a maze!"

   How is Lisa's remark "Aren't you the thoughtful one?" an example of verbal irony?
   
   - A. Livy actually happens to be thoughtful.
   - B. Lisa is actually mocking Livy's suggestion.
   - C. Lisa is seriously questioning Livy's motive.
   - D. Livy is going to help Lisa with the kids.

33. Our school had invited an astronaut for a guest appearance. We were expecting to be thrilled by her presentation on her journey to the space. The speech was informative alright, but it was more about the spaceship than the space. Apparently, some astronauts never get out of their spaceship. Then, she talked about the training people have to go through to become astronauts. I was surprised to see our science teacher, Mr. Houser, sitting all wide-eyed and awe-struck by the lecture.

   At the end of the presentation, Mr. Houser asked me about it since I was sitting up front.
"How about it, son? Wasn't that just marvelous?"
Failing to hide my lack of enthusiasm, I said, "_______"

What should the speaker say at the end of the story to demonstrate verbal irony?

- A. Actually, I was very bored.
- B. You can't possibly be serious, sir!
- C. What does an astronaut do?
- D. I couldn't have been more excited!

Soiree had been looking forward to the summer all year long. She had just turned sixteen. Finally, she would be able to get a job and earn independence. Soiree had dreams of working in the mall as a sales representative for the make-up department. Better yet, she wanted to work at her favorite clothing store so she could get discount. Then, she filled out the applications and applied to all the departmental stores. Her father also helped her out by taking her applications to the other stores in the mall.

As summer approached, Soiree panicked when she did not hear back from a single store. "Dad, what do I do now? Looks like all the stores are booked," she voiced her fears.
"Just wait a few more days, kiddo," the father assured Soiree.
Before she knew it, Soiree was riding to the mall with her father. She had managed to put on the seat belt despite the thickness of the penguin costume.
"You okay there?" the father asked.
"Yes, just a little toasty," Soiree replied, taking her hat off. "It's only June in Arizona."
"Well, at least you got your first job, darling," the father tried to cheer her up.
"Yes, I am honored to be a penguin in a pet store," Soiree said without a laugh.

34. The sentence "It's only June in Arizona" is ironic because

- A. Soiree means to comment on her thick outfit in the Arizona summer.
- B. Soiree's father is used to living in colder places like Rhode Island.
- C. Soiree is trying to say that the summer is not that bad in Arizona.
- D. Soiree's father thinks his daughter should drive to work on her own.

35. At the end of the story, what should Soiree say to her father to demonstrate sarcasm?

- A. You never told me about your first job in high school.
- B. Can you pick me up at six so we can grab some dinner?
- C. It's only fitting since we are so near the North Pole.
- D. Yes, it is better than being without a job, dear father.

36. What is sarcastic about this sentence from the story?

"Yes, just a little toasty," Soiree replied, taking her hat off.

- A. She thinks her father is feeling warm in the car as well.
37. Which of these sentences from this passage demonstrates verbal irony?

- A. "Just wait a few more days, kiddo," the father assured Soiree.
- B. She had managed to put on the seat belt. . .
- C. Yes, I am honored to be a penguin in a pet store.
- D. Better yet, she wanted to work at her favorite clothing store. . .

38. One day the food items in the refrigerator got really bored. The lettuce and the tomato decided to have a race. They were going to see which one of them could get from the crisping drawer to the top shelf the fastest. The butter yelled, "On your marks, get set, go!" The lettuce was very fast for such a bulky piece of produce. The tomato rolled and bounced behind the green, leafy, vegetable. Although, the lettuce was ahead, the tomato tried really hard to _______.

The lettuce reached the top shelf before the tomato had even made it to the middle shelf. But all of the food items were very pleased with the effort both of their friends had made. The whole refrigerator was full of cheers and applause.

Which word completes the pun in the following sentence from the passage?

Although, the lettuce was ahead, the tomato tried really hard to _______.

- A. ketchup
- B. cheat
- C. pickle
- D. pass

The lady with the pet dog tried to walk as fast as she could. This was her time for exercising, thinking, relaxing, and planning. On the evenings, she got out of the house to flee the constant outpour of relatives and neighbors. She even wanted to escape the television, the radio, or her husband reading the newspaper out loud. When the sun was about to set, it was her time to be herself. She adjusted her scarf and smiled to herself for she had an hour of absolute bliss. May be I can think of the next book to read, she thought, trying to narrow down her interests. The dog trotted in his pace, and the lady now took dainty, little footsteps. She was slowly relaxing until she saw a group of her neighbors walking to her directions. Her hopes of peace and quiet sank. They seemed overly excited and chatty upon spotting her.

"Hey, how in the world are you?" the loudest in the group asked.
"Oh great," the lady with the pet dog responded. "You guys showed up just on time."
"Would you like to join us for a little shopping spree?" the loud lady asked again. "We are going to the big sale. It is rush hour at the mall, but you enjoy company. Maybe drop off your dog first?"
"That's exactly what I was thinking of doing," she said, trying to think of ways to escape the group.
39. Which sentence from the story is an example of verbal irony?

- A. When the sun was about to set, it was her time to be herself.
- B. The lady with the pet dog tried to walk as fast as she could.
- C. "That's exactly what I was thinking of doing," she said...
- D. They seemed overly excited and chatty upon spotting her.

40. What is ironic about this sentence from the story?

"You guys showed up just on time."

- A. The group shows up when the lady least wants them to.
- B. The lady with the pet dog is impolite and inconsiderate.
- C. The lady with the pet dog is in need of some company.
- D. The group seems to have an accurate timing that evening.

41. Today was the day. Ernesto was going to confront his father. In fact, Ernesto was going to face himself. He had long made the decision of going to college for social work, but he could not dare tell his father. Ernesto's family was made of lawyers and war veterans. Even his cousins were in law school. But his heart desired a different path. His father knew about his acceptance but not about the program he had chosen to study. So, Ernesto had to state the fact to his expectant father.

"Father, I have decided to study social work at Yale," he said.

The father responded with his back facing Ernesto, "___"

Which of these would best fill in the blank and add verbal irony or sarcasm to this passage?

- A. Well, doesn't that just light up my day!
- B. Why are you not listening to your father?
- C. They teach social work at that university?
- D. Congratulations on your acceptance, son!

42. Tye and Mylie had always been a great team. They inspired and challenged each other to work to the best of their abilities. Whether it was a science project or painting the front door, Tye and Mylie liked doing everything together.

Mylie was saddened the day Tye sprained her right arm playing basketball. It was hard for Tye to sit back and watch Mylie do all the work. After all, it was Tye's room that was being painted. It was interesting for her to watch her friend transform her room. She was even more surprised to see Mylie do an excellent job completely on her own.

"Do you like it?" Mylie asked, nervously, when she was finished painting the galaxy on the walls.

"Girl, you've ruined it," Tye replied with a smile. "What am I going to do with you?"

Tye's remark, "Girl, you've ruined it," is an example of verbal irony because

- A. she really appreciates Mylie's work.
B. she actually wants to repaint the wall.
C. she wants the wall to look different.
D. she feels unwanted and not needed.

43. It was a hot, sunny day. I took my bicycle for a long ride. I rode it down the long road and across the bridge over the lake. I was having such a good time with my trusty friend. But after an hour or so, my bicycle seemed worn out. I wanted to go to the top of King’s Hill. However, my bicycle just couldn't make it up the hill because ________.

Which of these responses completes the joke with a pun?

A. it was two-tired
B. it ran its course
C. it ran out of gas
D. it fell asleep at the wheel

44. Palomina was all set for the pool party. It was summer, her favorite season, and she was happy to make a great use of her wardrobe today. After hours of thinking, planning, and shuffling through her clothes, she finally picked out a pair of white shorts and a yellow polka-dot T-shirt.

"Yes!" she approved of herself in the mirror. "Now, this is when my yellow and white striped sandals come in handy."

Palomina smiled at herself. I just might be a fashion designer or something, she thought with glee and took dainty steps from her front yard to the neighbor’s. That was when raindrops started attacking her all of a sudden. In a matter of seconds, Palomina was soaked to the bone.

"Well, I will certainly make a great impression looking like this," she said, shaking her head in despair and rushing inside her house.

When Palomina says, "Well, I will certainly make a great impression looking like this," she means

A. she is confused about the rain.
B. she is afraid she looks awful.
C. she is thankful for the sudden rain.
D. she is thrilled about her outfit.

45. The road trip to Florida was a vacation of a lifetime. Anya and Romeo had never enjoyed hanging out with their parents so much. They loved hearing stories in the car and singing all the
silly songs. Anya and Romeo loved acting like children, like they used to a few years ago. Anya was going off to college, and this was going to be the last family vacation for a while. The family enjoyed the beach and the activities, but the most precious time was made up of moments they spent together talking to each other or just hanging out in silence.

"Now, Anya is all grown-up," the father said as the family started packing up for the journey back home. "So, kiddo, how did you like your going away vacation?"
"I have had better times," Anya said, hugging her father. "Wasn't it terrible, guys?"

How is Anya's remark at the end of the story ironic?

- A. She actually has a good time in Florida.
- B. She dislikes the thought of going to college.
- C. She actually thinks her family is bored.
- D. She is going to be away from her family.

46. Ivan was planning a camping trip. He told his friend Vencil that he was going to camp at Daingerfield State Park. Vencil said, "Be safe."

What is funny about Vencil's statement?

- A. The park doesn't allow very many campers at a time, so Vencil can't go with Ivan.
- B. Vencil is being silly because there is no way that someone could get hurt at a park.
- C. Ivan is known for having accidents, so he is sure to hurt himself on the camping trip.
- D. The name of the park is "Daingerfield" which sounds like "Danger-field."

47. Shana gasped in disbelief as she stood in her bedroom. Her little sister Zara, who had a sprained leg, was lying on her bed. Zara was doing an oil painting on the bed and eating popcorn in intervals. Zara was also wiping the paint on the periwinkle bed sheet.

"Hey, sis," Zara said upon noticing Shana. "Could you pass me the chips and salsa?"
"Sure," Shana said, rolling her eyes and picking up pieces of popcorn from the carpet.

Which of these should be added to the story to demonstrate sarcasm?

- A. Why did you make such a big mess?
- B. Are you messy because your leg hurts?
- C. And, how else can I serve you better?
- D. Do you need help with your painting?

48. As a team captain, Selma believed in giving each of her teammates a fair chance. So, even after repeated oppositions from them, she chose Eve as the speaker for the next quiz bowl. As Ralph, Tom, and Bianca rolled their eyes, Eve smiled the biggest smile and rolled up her sleeves. Being the smart aleck that she was, Eve hastily answered the questions without consulting the team. Before they knew it, Team Star Far was at the bottom in the first round.

Although Ralph and Bianca tried to keep their cool, Tom could not control himself.

"Congratulations, you did it," Tom said to Eve and angrily waited for the second round.

What is sarcastic about the Tom's congratulating Eve?
A. He thinks Eve can do a better job in the next round.
B. He is encouraging Eve to help the team win.
C. He is confused about Selma being the team captain.
D. He is actually angry about losing the first round.

49. Mrs. Avery ordered a large pizza for her family’s dinner. Her 12-year-old son, Shawn, answered the door when the delivery person brought the pizza to the house. Shawn paid for the pizza and took it to the kitchen. He was very hungry and started eating it straight out of the box. Mrs. Avery walked into the kitchen several minutes later and sternly asked, “Well, Son, how is the pizza?” At that moment, Shawn finished eating the whole left side of the pizza.

Which of the following responses would make Shawn’s answer a pun?
A. "My belly is stuffed."
B. "It's all right now."
C. "Where did it go?"
D. "That was cheesy."

50. Ace is a professional downhill skier. He reaches incredible speeds and wins a lot of races. Ace’s friends often ask him how he’s doing in the skiing competitions. Ace answers them, "I always start at the top, _______."

Which of the following phrases completes Ace’s statement with a pun?
A. and I think happy thoughts about winning
B. but I just can’t handle the pressure
C. and I come in first place at the bottom
D. but I keep going downhill from there
Answers

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. D
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. B
11. D
12. C
13. D
14. C
15. B
16. C
17. D
18. D
19. C
20. C
21. C
22. B
23. B
24. D
25. B
26. C
27. C
28. A
29. B
30. D
31. A
32. B
33. D
34. A
35. C
36. B
37. C
38. A
39. C
40. A
41. A
42. A
43. A
44. B
45. A
46. D
47. C
48. D
49. B
50. D
Explanations

1. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. In the story, Opal warns her soon that he is not going to like the lamb stew. Authors often use irony for humor or for emphasis. By saying that he will love the stew, Opal means to show how much Reeve will dislike it.

2. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. According to the story, Reeve has made a mistake by calling his aunt "hair." Because his action is impolite, his mother's remarks in the first paragraph on Reeve's politeness is ironic.

3. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. Martinique seems to be having a rough day. Sahara's commenting on his "luck" the way she does is ironic.

4. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. Martinique's dialogue is an example of verbal irony because he has had a rough day.

5. Sarcasm is when someone says one thing but means something different. Because Martinique has grass stains on his trousers and mud on his t-shirt, his mother's saying that she loves his look would be ironic.

6. Puns are jokes that use words or phrases that have double meanings. The correct answer completes the pun because "put on a thinking cap" is used in two different ways. First, it could mean to put on a literal cap to keep the head warm. Secondly, it could mean to concentrate on something.

7. The teacher uses a play on words to make a joke. The word "corny" describes something that is humorous because it is too predictable. Serving popcorn while watching a movie is very predictable, and popcorn comes from corn.

8. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The father means to compliment Topher's look. Thus, his saying that Topher has looked better is ironic.

9. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The young man with the baby is not helping Topher get over his nervousness. If Topher says something that opposes what he really feels, he will show irony. Commenting that the young man boosted his confidence would demonstrate verbal irony.

10. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The author shows the struggle Juanita goes through to graduate from high school. By commenting on the proud moment as disappointing, Juanita is being ironic.

11. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The story shows that the love between Mrs. Sue and her students is mutual. She is sad to be leaving them forever. So, her remark "Well, thank God this is over" shows verbal irony.
12. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The author shows that Mrs. Sue is not saying what she is feeling by following her comment with "Mrs. Sue lied again." Authors often use irony for emphasis, humor, or to simply enrich the text. In this story, Mrs. Sue is trying to lighten up the situation.

13. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. In this story, the reader learns that Aleya is not very graceful. So, her saying that she is known for being graceful is ironic.

14. Sarcasm is when someone says one thing but means something different. The reader knows Aleya tries really hard to appear graceful and skilled. When Josh plays a role in ruining her effort, she is upset. Thanking him is sarcastic.

15. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The story shows how Dina is in an embarrassing situation in front of Ralph, a guy she likes. So, her remark "Never been better" is ironic and contrasts with how she really feels about the situation.

16. Puns are jokes that use words or phrases with double meanings. The correct answer completes the pun because the figurative meaning of "lend a hand" is "to help someone" and the literal meaning is "to let someone borrow a hand."

17. Sheila uses the term "tossed salad" to make a joke. People usually use tongs to toss or stir salads, but Carrie dropped the salad, and it got tossed all over the floor.

18. Puns are plays on words. The correct answer completes the pun with a double meaning. "Knead" is "to press and shape dough with the hands." "Knead" also sounds like the word "need," which means "to require something." The word "dough" can mean "a mixture of flour and egg," or it can mean "money."

19. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. In this story, Cheryl is actually upset because of the situation with Joyce. She is frustrated trying to make him feel better.

20. There is a saying that goes, "You can't have your cake and eat it too." Ryan changes the wording a little and uses it to make a joke about how he doesn't want to eat cake. The original saying means that you can't have everything your way.

21. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. Juan's response to Benito is ironic because throughout the passage, Juan acts like he really loves spring. What Juan actually says is that he hates this terrible weather.

22. Puns are jokes that use words or phrases with double meanings. In the joke, "fur coat" has a double meaning. A fur coat can be an animal's natural fur that covers its body, or it can be a fancy,
expensive coat made from fur. "Pants" has a double meaning, as well. "Pants" can mean an item of clothing that covers the legs, or pants can mean the act of breathing fast and heavy.

23. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The story shows that despite his efforts, Robby is actually late for the float. The story also shows that he is feeling embarrassed as he remarks on being early.

24. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. In fact, Sunny is proud of his son's accomplishment and means to congratulate him. He even hugs his son to express his joy.

25. A pun is a humorous use of similar words or phrases to suggest different meanings. The correct answer is a pun because it suggests different meanings through the word "draw." The statements ("Two pencils competed in a race. The result was a draw.") could be interpreted two ways. It could mean that something was drawn with the pencils or that the race was a tie.

26. The phrase "potty mouth" is typically used to describe someone who uses inappropriate language. The word "potty" also refers to a toilet. Amanda is sitting inside of the hippopotamus' mouth, and Justin makes a joke that the hippo's mouth is a "potty" and that the hippo uses bad language.

27. A pun is a play on words in which similar words that suggest different meanings are used. Only the correct answer is a pun because it suggests different meanings through the word "outdated." The word "outdated" means both "out-of-date" and "no longer in use." In the case of a calendar, the word "outdated" could be used in both ways.

28. Puns are jokes that use words or phrases with double meanings. The first joke uses the double meaning of the word "private." A "private" is a low-ranking soldier. "Private" can also mean to make something available only to certain people. The correct answer is a second joke with the double meaning of the word "general." A "general" is a high-ranking officer in the military. "General" can also mean "involving everyone around."

29. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The author shows how Mrs. Sue is a tough teacher. The mid-term exam is challenging for everyone. When Paul wipes the sweat from his brow and comments on the pleasantness of the exam, he is being ironic.

30. A pun is a play on words. Anuja uses the literal meaning of "cracking up" to make a joke about Tiesha actually cracking apart. Tiesha uses the phrase "You crack me up" in a figurative way. The figurative meaning means that Anuja makes Tiesha laugh a lot.

31. Sarcastic words seem to mean one thing but really mean the opposite. A baseball fan wants to enjoy watching the World Series. She does not want to do homework. This comment is sarcastic.

32. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The story shows that Lisa does not find Livy's suggestion to be very well thought out. Thus, her commenting on the thoughtfulness of the idea exemplifies verbal irony.

33. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The author shows how the speaker feels extremely bored throughout the presentation. His remark on the excitement produced by the lecture would be ironic.

34. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The reader can guess
35. Sarcasm is when someone says one thing but means something different. The reader can tell that Soiree is upset about her work outfit. It is also obvious that Arizona is nowhere near the North Pole. Her saying that her outfit is fitting because she lives near the North Pole is sarcastic.

36. Sarcasm is when someone says one thing but means something different. In this understatement, Soiree means opposite of what she feels. She is really warm in her thick outfit in the Arizona summer.

37. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The reader knows that Soiree does not get the job she wants. Hence, her remark about being honored to work in a pet store is ironic.

38. A pun is a play on words. A pun uses words or phrases with double meanings to make a joke. In the joke, the double meaning of "ahead" is used. "Ahead" means to be in front of or before someone. If "ahead" is broken into "a" and "head" it refers to a single unit of lettuce. The correct answer completes the pun in the same way. "Ketchup" is a condiment that is made from tomatoes. "Ketchup" is pronounced like "catch up."

39. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. In this story, the lady is not planning to go shopping when the mall is crowded. Thus, her saying that she was thinking of going to the mall is ironic.

40. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. In this story, the lady really hopes for some time alone when the group shows up. Thus, her saying that the ladies showed up on time shows verbal irony.

41. Verbal irony or sarcasm is when someone says one thing but means something different. By saying "Well, doesn't that just light up my day!" Ernesto's father would be using verbal irony. The story implies that Ernesto's father is expecting him to study law. His reaction at first would most likely be negative.

42. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. The story shows that Tye comes to realize Mylie's ability to work independently. She appreciates what Mylie has done to her wall. By saying that she ruined the wall, she means that Mylie did an excellent job with it.

43. A pun is a play on words. The correct answer uses the phrase "two-tired" to make a joke. "Two-tired" means that something has two tires, but it sounds like "too tired." The other answer choices may use phrases with double meanings, but they do not apply to a bicycle.

44. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. According to the story, Palomina's carefully planned outfit is ruined because of the sudden rain. To express her despair, she remarks on the possibility of making a great impression after the rain ruins her outfit.

45. Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. In this story, Anya and the family have a great time in Florida. Thus, Anya's comment on "better times" shows she is being ironic.

46. Vencil tells Ivan to "be safe." This is funny because the name of the place where Ivan is going to
camp sounds like "Danger-field." Even if Vencil is giving heartfelt advice, it is still a funny coincidence that the park's name makes it sound like a dangerous place.

47. Sarcasm is when someone says one thing but means something different. Shana is upset that Zara has made a mess in her bedroom. By asking how she could serve her better, Shana would be using sarcasm.

48. Sarcasm is when someone says one thing but means something different. Tom is upset about Eve causing their team a loss. Thus, the congratulatory remarks are sarcastic.

49. A pun is a humorous use of similar words or phrases to suggest different meanings. The correct answer is a pun because it suggests different meanings through the words "all right." It could mean that the pizza is okay or that the only part of it that is left is the right side.

50. Puns are jokes that use words or phrases that have double meanings. The correct answer completes the pun because "downhill" has two meanings. The literal meaning of "downhill" is "a downward slope." The figurative meaning of "downhill" is "things keep getting worse."

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