

## “Ironic” by Alanis Morissette

Below are sample lyrics from Morissette’s song that you can use to assess students’ understanding of irony.

Line from the song	Is it ironic?	If Yes – Which type and why? If No – Why not?
“An old man turned ninety eight/He won the lottery and died the next day...”	No	It is purely coincidence that the old man dies the next day. While many might think this is irony, one would expect a ninety-eight year old man to die simply because of his old age.
“It’s like rain on your wedding day...”	No	Again, it is coincidence that it rains on someone’s wedding day <b>unless</b> the forecast calls for a sunny day and it then begins to rain.
“It’s meeting the man of my dreams/And then meeting his beautiful wife...”	Yes	Situational Irony – Someone would not expect to meet the man of their dreams only to find out that the man is married.
“It’s a death row pardon two minutes late...”	Yes	Situational Irony – Someone would not expect for someone who is on death row, and has most likely undergone numerous appeals, to be pardoned for their actions.
“A traffic jam when you’re already late...”	No	When someone is late to work, they may be more likely to run into traffic. The fact that they are late and run into a traffic jam is simply coincidence.
“A no-smoking sign on your cigarette break...”	No	Unless the employee had no knowledge of the sign, this is not ironic. It is, again, a coincidence. However, if the employee did not see the sign and we did, it would be dramatic irony. If the employee had always smoked and then saw that the sign had just been hung, it would be situational irony, as the expectation is based on the fact that they have always been able to smoke, but are now no longer permitted to do so.
The song title, “Ironic.”	Yes	Situational Irony – Because the song is titled “Ironic,” it is expected that the song would include actual examples of irony when, for the most part, it merely discusses unfortunate coincidences.