

What is a paradox?

A **paradox** is a saying which contradicts itself, or seems to do so. A good example is, *That man is not so tall as he was when he was a baby*. Sometimes, paradoxes are used for special effects, as in this example by the writer Oscar Wilde:

Mr Bernard Shaw has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by all his friends.

What is an oxymoron?

An **oxymoron** is a short paradox, especially one which includes an adjective that seems to contradict the noun it is applied to, for example, *'false truth'*.