

Word of the Day – **Oxymoron**

Transcript

Hi everyone. Today's word of the day is **oxymoron**. **Oxymoron** is a noun. You can feel free to use this word in formal settings or in casual conversations. This word has a slightly negative connotation. However, it is not considered an insult even though you may recognize that the second part of the word, "moron", means foolish. You don't need to be afraid about using it among friends, family, or even business associates. The definition of **oxymoron** is a figure of speech that uses contradictory terms in conjunction. So, what does that mean? Probably the easiest way to explain this word is to use an example. Let's say your friend is going on a diet to lose weight. Unfortunately, you find a bucket of ice-cream in her freezer and confront her about it. She defends herself by saying,

"Hey, it's ok. I'm not cheating on my diet. That ice-cream is low in fat and has zero calories. It's a diet ice-cream. I know that's an oxymoron but trust me, I'm still losing weight."

The phrase "diet ice-cream" is an **oxymoron**, which your friend admits. It is an **oxymoron** because the words "diet" and "ice-cream" contradict each other, that is, they are normally used as two opposing words. Eating ice-cream makes you fat; while a diet is supposed to help you lose weight. These opposite words are put together to form a new meaning, even though they conflict with each other. It's common to point out an **oxymoron** in conversation since it's normal to laugh about this odd aspect of English.

Other common **oxymorons** include: founding missing, good grief, same difference, alone together, living dead, small crowd, and working vacation. If you would like more information, or the full transcript, please visit our website. Thank you very much and take care.