

Backcountry Oxymora

Just in case you don't know, an oxymoron is a figure of speech in which contradictory or opposite terms or ideas are combined.

The word has its origins in the Greek: oxy = "sharp, pointed" and moros, moron = "foolish". In other words, "pointedly foolish". An oxymoron is also defined as "a wittily paradoxical turn of phrase which appeals to unconscious responses instead of rational examinations". Whew!

Anyway, here are some oxymora that one might hear and/or utter, while in the backcountry:

OXYMORONIC BACKCOUNTRY PHRASES:

Small Crowd	Awful Good	Less is More
Cold as Hell	Almost Exactly	Dull Roar
Found Missing	Approximately Equal	Silent Scream
Calm Winds	Pretty Ugly	Real Fantasy
Alone Together	Old News	Partial Silence
Short Distance	Hopelessly Optimistic	Partial Success
Slow Speed	Half Full or Half Empty	Passively Aggressive
Amateur Expert	Medium Large	Tense Calm
Minor Disaster	Mild Abrasive	Progressive Conservative
Organized Mess	Second Best	Little Giant
Partially Completed	Sure Bet	Accurate Rumors
Painless Torture	Sweet Sorrow	Bad Health
Restless Sleep	Terribly Nice	Unbiased Opinion
Work Party	Unacceptable Solution	Near Miss
Clever Fool	Loud Whisper	Honest Politician
Full-Time Hobby	Mandatory Option	Congressional Ethics
Friendly Argument	Perfectly Awful	Governmental Efficiency
Deafening Silence	Troubled Paradise	Conspicuous Absence
Extra Time	Same Difference	Deliberate Mistake
Definite Maybe	Accidentally on Purpose	Genuine Fake
Male Lady Bug	Act Naturally	Genuine Imitation
Clearly Confusing	Bad Luck	Somewhat Unique

OXYMORONIC BACKCOUNTRY STATEMENTS:

I paid too much for it, but it's worth it.

A little pain never hurt anyone.

No one goes to that place anymore - it's always too crowded.

We do not anticipate any emergencies.

I marvel at the strength of human weakness.

I tripped over a hole that was sticking up out of the ground.

I'm not going to say, "I told you so."

I'm proud of my humility.

It isn't an optical illusion. It just looks like one.

No matter where you go, there you are!

I used to be indecisive, now I'm not sure.

It rolled off my back like a duck.

May I ask a question?

Anyone who isn't confused here doesn't really know what's going on.

I've told you for the fifty-thousandth time, stop exaggerating.

Anyone who goes to a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.

He lived his life to the end.

If you fall and break your legs, don't come running to me. - Samuel Goldwyn

You can observe a lot just by watchin'. - Yogi Berra

If you come to a fork in the road, take it." - Yogi Berra

Why don't you pair 'em up in threes? -Yogi Berra

Our similarities are different. - Dale Berra, son of Yogi

I distinctly remember forgetting that. - Clara Barton

I am a deeply superficial person. - Andy Warhol

The best cure for insomnia is to get a lot of sleep. -W.C. Fields

I must follow the people. Am I not their leader? - Benjamin Disraeli

I can resist everything but temptation. - Mark Twain