**[Paraprosdokian](http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Paraprosdokian" \o "http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Paraprosdokian" \t "_blank)s**

A **paraprosdokian** (from Greek "παρα-", meaning "beyond" and "προσδοκία", meaning "expectation") is a [figure of speech](http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Figure_of_speech" \t "_blank" \o "http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Figure_of_speech) in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an [anticlimax](http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Anticlimax" \t "_blank" \o "http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Anticlimax). For this reason, it is extremely popular among comedians and satirists.

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But it's still on the list. * You're never too old to learn something stupid. * Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with. * The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas! * Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy. * To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research. * Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak. * If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong. * We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public. * Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman. * War does not determine who is right - only who is left. * The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese. * Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't. * A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station. * How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole damn box to start a campfire? * I thought I wanted a career, turns out I just wanted pay checks. * A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it. * Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify:" I put "DOCTOR". * I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you. * Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet? * Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America? * A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory. * You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice. * Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back. * A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip. * Hospitality:  making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were. * Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go. * There's a fine line between cuddling, and holding someone down so they can't get away. * I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure. * I always take life with a grain of salt, plus a slice of lemon, and a shot of tequila. * Nostalgia isn't what it used to be. * Some people hear voices. Some see invisible people. Others have no imagination whatsoever. * A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are *after* it as when you are *in* it. * If you are supposed to learn from your mistakes, why do some people have more than one child? * Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine. * I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness. |  * "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate." — Henry J. Tillman[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraprosdokian#cite_note-0) * "I belong to no organized party. I am a [Democrat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States))." — [Will Rogers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Rogers)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraprosdokian#cite_note-1)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraprosdokian#cite_note-2) * "She got her good looks from her father; he's a plastic surgeon." — [Groucho Marx](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groucho_Marx) * "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it." — [Groucho Marx](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groucho_Marx) * "One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas I'll never know." — [Groucho Marx](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groucho_Marx) * "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." — [Groucho Marx](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groucho_Marx) * "It looked so good out this morning, I thought I'd leave it out." — [Paul Benjamin King](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Paul_Benjamin_King&action=edit&redlink=1) * "I haven't slept for ten days. Because that would be too long." — [Mitch Hedberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitch_Hedberg) * "You know, I'm sick of following my dreams, man. I'm just going to ask where they're going and hook up with 'em later." - [Mitch Hedberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitch_Hedberg) * "There’s a bunch of different crunches that affect the abs… my favorite is Nestle." - [Shmuel Breban](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Shmuel_Breban&action=edit&redlink=1) * "I like going to the park and watching the children run and jump around, because you see, they don't know I'm using blanks." - [Emo Philips](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emo_Philips) * "Actually, my cd was released in 1985, in return for two German missionaries and a Dutch urologist." - [Emo Philips](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emo_Philips) * "I discovered my wife in bed with another man, and I was crushed. So I said, 'Get off me, you two!'" - [Emo Philips](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emo_Philips) * "Mark my words. No, Mark, I really need my words." — [Stephen Colbert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Colbert) * "If all the girls at [Vassar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vassar_College) were laid end to end, I wouldn't be surprised." — [Dorothy Parker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Parker) * "It's too bad that whole families have to be torn apart by something as simple as wild dogs." — [Jack Handey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Handey) * "On the other hand, we have different fingers." — [Jack Handey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Handey) * "The face of a child can say it all, especially the mouth part of the face." — [Jack Handey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Handey) * "Keep reaching for the stars, because those are the only people who can help you" - [Maria Bamford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Bamford) * Education in England, fortunately, has no effect whatsoever. ( Lady Bracknall) | | | | | |