**[Paraprosdokian](http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Paraprosdokian%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Paraprosdokian%22%20%5Ct%20%22_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%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//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%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Anticlimax). For this reason, it is extremely popular among comedians and satirists.

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| * **Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.**
* To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
* Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
* When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.
* The last thing I want to do is hurt you. 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.
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* "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_%28United_States%29)." — [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)
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