

What on Earth is Sarcasm?

A story about what sarcasm is, and how to spot it.

Here's a story about sarcasm. Sarcasm is when people say the opposite of what they mean as a joke. It can be a bit difficult to spot it, but our friend Dan learnt to look for the signs...and even to use it himself!



Hi there. My name's Dan.

HI want to tell you about something that happened to me a few months ago.

I was sitting in my bedroom, playing Sonic the Hedgehog. I like playing games on my console, so this wasn't unusual or anything.

My mum knocked on the door (cool – she respects my privacy) – and when I answered “Yeh,” she came in.

I was looking at my game, but I could sort of sense her looking around.

And then she said the weirdest thing.

She said: “Wow, Dan, I can see you've made a real effort to tidy your bedroom.”

And then she left.

I finished the level I was on (as it's really impossible to talk unless I've done that) and I looked around my bedroom.

I hadn't made my bed, my bin was full, my schoolbag was on my bed and there were a load of books on my bed, too. There were two plates on my desk and a drinks carton. My trainers were in a muddle on the floor.

And what I'm trying to say is, I hadn't made an effort to tidy my room at all.



In fact, if I'm honest, the truth was pretty much the opposite.

This confused me, and my mum is pretty good at explaining things, so I went downstairs. She was vacuuming the sitting room, which I find hurts my ears a bit, but when she saw me she switched the vacuum off.

"Mum," I said. "I didn't make an effort to tidy my room at all, you know." I felt a bit bad because maybe she hadn't noticed this.

"I know," she said. "I was being sarcastic."

"What?" I replied.

"Pardon?" she said.

"I said WHAT?" I said it a bit more loudly.

"No," she said. "I meant say pardon, not what, it's more polite."

Everything is hard work with my mum.

I sighed. "PARDON?"