**What’s the difference between irony and sarcasm?**

**'irony' is using language, an expression that has its usual meaning, in a way that means just the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect.**

**Say I go out of my way to do a really big favour for a friend, who just mutters a quick 'ta' I might then respond:**

**“Don't go overboard with the gratitude.” That is, by responding as if he was being over the top with thanks for all that I had done, I am really pointing out that his appreciation was woefully lacking.**

**a situation can also be 'ironic'. Say a town planner has spent a year redesigning the traffic flow through a city to speed up transport in peak hours - and on the day the whole new system is be officially proclaimed, he is late because he's caught in a traffic jam.**

**A small town has one ambulance. A man was hit by a vehicle and needs to be rushed to hospital. The ambulance is unavailable ...because it was the ambulance that ran him down and is damaged!**

**Sarcasm is the use of irony to make a derogatory, scathing, witty attack on someone. I recall Bette Davis' line as a new starlet in Hollywood passed by their table: 'There goes the good time that was had by all.'**

**(Using the cliche, said in reporting social gatherings and parties, that 'a good time was had by all' (those attending)).**