

# PARADOX

## Quotations and Sayings

A paradox is a contradictory statement, situation or idea. Below are sayings and quotations that are paradoxes. Write a short explanation of why each is a paradox.

1) Less is more.

2) Everything I say is a lie.

3) (printed on a piece of paper) This page is intentionally left blank.

4) You must learn to swim before you get into the water.

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## Quotations and Sayings

A paradox is a contradictory statement, situation or idea. Below are sayings and quotations that are paradoxes. Write a short explanation of why each is a paradox.

**Actual student answers will vary. Answers should include references to the following:**

1) Less is more.

**“Less” by definition is not as much as more, so less cannot be the same as more.**

2) Everything I say is a lie.

**If everything you say is a lie, then that statement must also be a lie. This means that you haven't lied about everything. You have told the truth at least once, which negates the statement.**

3) (printed on a piece of paper) This page is intentionally left blank.

**The statement is printed on a piece of paper, therefore the page is not blank.**

4) You must learn to swim before you get into the water.

**It is virtually impossible to learn to swim without getting into the water. Therefore you could never learn to swim, so you could never get into the water.**