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par·a·dox  (pă ə-dŏks')

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n.

1. A statement that seems to contradict itself but may nonetheless be true: *the paradox that standing is more tiring than walking.*
2. A person, thing, or situation that exhibits inexplicable or contradictory aspects: *"The silence of midnight, to speak truly, though apparently a paradox, rung in my ears" (Mary Shelley).*
3. A statement that is self-contradictory or logically untenable, though based on a valid deduction from acceptable premises.

[Latin *paradoxum*, from Greek *paradoxon*, from neuter sing. of *paradoxos*, conflicting with expectation : *para-*, beyond; see [PARA-](#)¹ + *doxa*, opinion (from *dokein*, to think; see [dek-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

par'a·dox **i·cal** *adj.*

par'a·dox **i·cal·ly** *adv.*

par'a·dox **i·cal·ness** *n.*

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