Oxymorons

Underline and explain the oxymoron in each sentence.

1) The stand-up comedy event we watched last night was seriously funny.
   Explanation: ___________________________________________________________
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   __________________________________________________________

2) The board’s suggestion was met with a deafening silence from the members.
   Explanation: __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3) Students were sitting in random order.
   Explanation: __________________________________________________________
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   __________________________________________________________

4) Mom’s kitchen was organized chaos.
   Explanation: __________________________________________________________
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   __________________________________________________________

5) The Merchant of Venice is a tragicomedy.
   Explanation: __________________________________________________________
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**Oxymorons**

Underline and explain the oxymoron in each sentence.

1) The stand-up comedy event we watched last night was **seriously funny**.
   Explanation: “Serious” means “not joking” and “funny” means “humorous”, so the words are contradictory. The oxymoron “seriously funny” means “really funny”.

2) The board’s suggestion was met with a **deafening silence** from the members.
   Explanation: “Deafening”, which means “extremely loud”, and “silence”, which means “complete quiet”, are two opposing words. “Deafening silence” means silence that’s more powerful than eloquence.

3) Students were sitting in **random order**.
   Explanation: “Random” means “not following an order” and “order” is “a regular arrangement”, which are contradictory. “Random order” is “a sequence without a pattern”.

4) Mom’s kitchen was **organized chaos**.
   Explanation: “Organized” means “neatly arranged” and “chaos” is the exact opposite. “Organized chaos” is “a situation that appears chaotic but with good results”.

5) The Merchant of Venice is a **tragicomedy**.
   Explanation: “Tragedy” is “a sad event” and “comedy” is “a funny event”. “Tragicomedy” is a play or story that has elements of both fun and sadness.