Big Words

An oxymoron is a figure in speech in which two apparently contradictory words appear next to or near each other, for example, “alone together” is an oxymoron. A person cannot be “alone” and “together” with someone else at the same time, and yet the phrase “alone together” has a particular meaning that we understand.

Match each oxymoron on the right to the literal description of its meaning on the left.

_____ 1. Someone who is physically grown but acts like a baby.
   A     Jumbo Shrimp

_____ 2. Missing someone who is not there.
   B     Walking dead

_____ 3. A silence so noticeable you can almost “hear” it.
   C     deafening silence

_____ 4. Shrimp that are very big.
   D     noticeable absence

_____ 5. The one you like the least, but don’t exactly hate.
   E     alone in a crowd

_____ 6. Feeling lonely even though you are with others.
   F     least favorite

_____ 7. Someone that is extremely exhausted.
   G     big baby

8. Now invent an oxymoron of your own! Think of some quality and its opposite. Write your oxymoron on the lines below and explain its meaning in a few words.

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