

Hidden Meanings Hunt Answer Key

1. Retired - stopped being used
2. Passed away - died
3. Downsizing - laying off workers
4. Hit the books - study
5. Between jobs - unemployed
6. Correctional facility - prison or jail
7. Bent the truth - lied or exaggerated
8. Temporarily closed for maintenance - closed permanently or struggling
9. Better place - died
10. Taking a break - fired or quitting

- **Teaching Tips:**

- Begin by defining **euphemism** and discussing why people might use them (to sound polite, gentle, or formal).
- Read one or two examples aloud and guide students to identify the surrounding clues that reveal meaning.
- Encourage students to highlight or underline the **context clues** that helped them infer each meaning.

- **Differentiation Strategies:**

- For **Grades 5-6**: provide a short list of possible meanings for students to choose from.
- For **Grades 7-8**: ask students to explain how the euphemism changes the **tone** of the sentence.
- For **advanced learners**: have them write their own sentences using new euphemisms in context.