

Delicate Dialogue Rewrite Answer Key

Sample Euphemisms

1. The company **let twenty workers go** after the budget cuts.
2. My uncle **passed away** last week after being sick for months.
3. The **correctional facility** built a new wing for more **residents**.
4. The teacher said my essay **needs significant improvement**.
5. The man was **financially struggling** and couldn't afford a house.
6. The boss said the employee was **ready for retirement** and preferred traditional methods.
7. The politician **bent the truth** about his spending during the campaign.
8. The couple **decided to go their separate ways** after arguing for months.
9. The soldier **gave his life in service** during the war.
10. The city is **relocating the unhoused population** downtown.

- **Teaching Tips:**

- Discuss what makes a topic “taboo” or uncomfortable in conversation (e.g., death, money, age, failure).
- Model rewriting one or two sentences together, highlighting the tone shift created by euphemisms.
- Emphasize that euphemisms are not lies—they are **tone adjustments** for social or emotional comfort.

- **Differentiation Strategies:**

- For **Grades 8-9**: provide a word bank of possible euphemisms (e.g., “passed away,” “downsizing,” “correctional facility”).
- For **Grades 10-11**: challenge students to rewrite in both **formal** and **informal** registers to show nuance.
- Encourage critical discussion about when euphemisms can be helpful versus misleading.