

## Politeness or Pretending? Answer Key

### Sample Responses

1. They make difficult conversations more polite; they help people feel more comfortable.
2. Euphemisms can hide the truth or make serious problems seem less important.
3. Answers will vary (e.g., appropriate in sensitive personal situations, not in news or politics).
4. "The company let 100 workers go last week." or "The company restructured its workforce last week."
5. Answers will vary but should show understanding of the balance between honesty and politeness.

- **Teaching Tips:**

- Begin with a class discussion about where students have heard euphemisms (e.g., ads, news, workplaces).
- Read the passage aloud and have students highlight examples of euphemisms.
- Divide the class into two groups: one arguing that euphemisms **help**, the other that they **harm** communication. Encourage evidence-based arguments.

- **Differentiation Strategies:**

- For **Grades 9-10**: focus on identifying and interpreting euphemisms in simple contexts.
- For **Grades 11-12**: emphasize analysis of rhetorical and ethical effects (e.g., media spin, political language).
- Support English learners by defining euphemisms before reading and modeling tone contrasts ("fired" vs. "let go").