

Name _____



Soft Speech Sleuth

Directions: Read the paragraph carefully. Some words and phrases are **euphemisms**: gentle or polite ways of saying something unpleasant or direct. **Underline all the euphemisms** you find. Then, answer the comprehension questions that follow.

When Mr. Dalton's company began downsizing, several employees were let go to help the business save money. Instead of saying they were fired, the manager told everyone they were being relocated to "new opportunities." During the farewell meeting, Mr. Dalton mentioned that the office's old computers were being retired, and that the team would soon move to a correctional facility project, a phrase that sounded far more positive than "prison construction." Later, he joked that the coffee machine had passed away after years of hard service, lightening the mood in a difficult conversation.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the main purpose of the euphemisms used in this paragraph?
2. Identify at least **four euphemisms** used in the passage.
3. Why might the manager choose to use euphemisms instead of direct language?
4. How does the tone of the paragraph change because of the euphemisms?
5. Write one euphemism you have heard or used before and explain its meaning.