

LEARN 10 EUPHEMISMS IN 3 STEPS

STEP 1 - Guess the meaning

Read the following sentences and try to infer the meaning. Don't look at step 2 just yet.

1. Employer to employee: "We are going to **have to let you go.**"
2. A dog owner: "My dog is trained to **do his business** on the grass, never on the pavement."
3. A car dealer to a potential customer: "If you can't afford to buy a new car, why don't you have a look at our **pre-enjoyed** vehicles?"
4. A girl in a pub, restaurant: "I have to **go to the ladies.**" A man: "I'm **going to spend a penny.**"
5. Someone commenting on another person's description of a situation. "He is being **economical with the truth.**"
6. For example, in a newspaper: "These flats have been built for the **economically disadvantaged.**"
7. Talking about somebody else: "Have you met the new neighbour? I think **he's not all there.**"
8. Somebody tells you: "This restaurant is very popular with **senior citizens** in this area."
9. A pet owner: "He was suffering too much so the vet advised us to **put him to sleep.**"
10. A mum talking to his child who needs the toilet: "Is it a **number one or a number two?**"

STEP 2 - Match

- a. Old people:
- b. Poor:
- c. Pee or poo:
- d. Fire:
- e. Go to the toilet:
- f. Strange, stupid or a bit crazy:
- g. Not telling the truth, lying:
- h. Poo (for a dog):
- i. Second-hand:
- j. Euthanise him, put him down:

STEP 3 - Can you remember the original euphemism?

1. Employer to employee: "We are going to **fire** you."
2. A dog owner: "My dog is trained to **poo** on the grass, never on the pavement."
3. A car dealer to a potential customer: "If you can't afford a new car, why don't you have a look at our **second-hand** vehicles?"
4. A girl in a pub, restaurant: "I have to **go to the loo/toilet**." A man: "I'm **going to the loo/toilet**."
5. Someone commenting on another person's recount of things. "He is **lying/not telling the truth**."
6. For example, in a newspaper: "These flats have been built for the **poor**."
7. Talking about somebody else: "Have you met the new neighbour? I think **he's strange/a bit crazy**."
8. Somebody tells you: "This restaurant is very popular with **elderly people** in this area."
9. A pet owner: "He was suffering too much so the vet advised us to **put him down**."
10. A mum talking to his child who needs the toilet: "Is it a **number one or a number two**?"

Step 2 - key

1-d / 2- 6-h/ 3-i / 4-e / 5-g / 6-b / 7-f / 8-a / 9-j / 10-c

Step 3 - key

1. have to let you go.
2. do his business
3. pre-enjoyed
4. go to the ladies / going to spend a penny."
5. economical with the truth
6. economically disadvantaged
7. he's not all there
8. senior citizens
9. put him to sleep
10. number one or a number two