Say It Softer

Working with Euphemisms

Mini Lesson:

Etymology of Euphemism

- **Origin**: Greek

- **Root words**:

- **εὐ- (eu-)** meaning *"good" or "well"*

- **φήμη (phēmē)** meaning *"speech" or "saying"*

Literal meaning: *"Speaking well"* or *"speaking in a good manner"*

The term entered **English in the 17th century**, originally referring to the practice of using auspicious or favorable language to avoid invoking misfortune or offense.

Purpose of Euphemism

Euphemisms serve several purposes:

1. **Politeness**: To avoid offending or upsetting others (e.g., saying *"passed away"* instead of *"died"*).

2. **Social Tact**: To navigate topics considered taboo or culturally sensitive (e.g., *"using the restroom"* vs. *"defecating"*).

3. **Professionalism**: To maintain decorum in formal or institutional settings (e.g., *"downsizing"* instead of *"firing employees"*).

4. **Propaganda / Spin**: To obscure truth or manipulate perception (e.g., *"collateral damage"* instead of *"civilian casualties"*).

5. **Psychological Comfort**: To reduce anxiety or discomfort around difficult realities (e.g., *"in a better place"* for death).

6. **Humor or Irony**: Sometimes used playfully or sarcastically to understate harsh truths.

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Instructions
The first word has been completed as an example
All relevant words after the first column on the spectrum will receive an additional quarter point.
You are not allowed to use Google, ChatGPT, or other AI resources.

1. Death	Passed Away	Departed	Crossed Over	Deceased
2. Genocide				
3. Exploit				
4. Humiliate				
5. Prostitute				
6. Robbery				
7. Evil				
8. Poor				
9. Racist				
10. Callous				