

## What Is a Euphemism?

**A euphemism is a word or series of words which replaces sad, unpleasant or shocking ideas with softer and nicer expressions. For instance: “departure from life” is a euphemism for “death”.**

**The expressions in italics are euphemisms. What do they probably mean?**

1. She was *less favoured by beauty*.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Tom’s driving ability *had plenty of room for improvement*.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. They are now at their *final rest*.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. *Tears were my only company*.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Someone *borrowed money without asking* from my purse.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Choose some examples from poems or other texts you’ve read. What do you think the author meant to say?**

a) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**1- Now, that you are familiar with this figure of speech, think of something you could soften using a euphemism. Either use a standard euphemism, or if you want, make one up and see if other students can guess what it means.**

a) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Euphemisms

### Answers

The expressions mean that:

1. She was ugly or unattractive.
- 2- Tom was a bad driver.
- 3- They died.
- 4- The person cried a lot.
- 5- Someone stole money from her purse.