

## Face 2 Face Advanced English Language Course

*It's the way to say it*

*Student's book, pages 32, 33*

### *Euphemisms*

*Being tactful (soft language)*

*Exercise 1- Guess the meanings of the phrases in bold (p126)*

*Exercises 4, 6 and 7- Being tactful*

*Homework- Workbook, page 18, exercises 1 and 2*

### *Euphemisms* [https://youtu.be/6LFg\\_5zs7CY](https://youtu.be/6LFg_5zs7CY)

A euphemism is a polite expression used in place of words or phrases that might otherwise be considered harsh or unpleasant. These phrases are used regularly, and there are many examples of euphemisms in everyday language.

### **Death and Dying**

- Passed away instead of died
- Dearly departed instead of died
- Ethnic cleansing instead of genocide
- Negative patient outcome instead of died
- Collateral damage instead of accidental deaths
- Put to sleep/Put down instead of euthanize
- Pregnancy termination instead of abortion
- Bite the big one instead of die
- Bought the farm instead of died
- Wearing cement shoes instead of killed
- Bit the dust instead of died
- Croaked instead of died
- Kick the bucket instead of die
- Whacked instead of killed

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### Various States of Employment

- Letting someone go instead of firing someone
- On the streets instead of homeless
- Correctional facility instead of jail
- Between jobs instead of unemployed
- Relocation center instead of prison camp
- Economical instead of cheap
- Negative cash flow instead of broke
- Taking an early retirement instead of got fired
- Urban outdoorsman instead of homeless
- Embarking on a journey of self-discovery instead of jobless

### Bodily Functions and Getting Old

- Powder your nose instead of go to the toilet
- Break wind instead of pass gas or fart
- Blow chunks instead of vomit
- Making a deposit in the porcelain bank instead of going to the bathroom
- Fired a shot instead of flatulence
- Backed up worse than the Hoover Dam instead of constipated
- Over the hill and picking up speed instead of really old

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### Physical and Mental Attributes

- **Big-boned** instead of fat or overweight
- **Portly** instead of heavy or overweight
- **Vertically-challenged** instead of short
- **Moon landing** instead of bald
- **A little Thin On Top** instead of bald
- **Differently-abled** instead of handicapped or disabled
- **Bad rug** instead of toupee
- **Intellectually challenged** instead of not smart
- **One sandwich short of a picnic** instead of not smart
- **A beer short of a six pack** instead of not smart
- **A brick short of a load** instead of not smart
- **Not the sharpest pencil in the box** instead of not smart
- **His elevator doesn't reach the top floor** instead of not smart
- **Chronologically-challenged** instead of late
- **Economical with the truth** instead of liar

Euphemisms have many different uses. They can help you avoid being overly blunt and remain in a tone of politeness. In other cases, euphemisms are intentionally gross and are used when people are being sarcastic or trying to make light of a serious subject. Sometimes, a euphemism is simply meant to be funny.

Of course, not everyone likes using them: <https://youtu.be/g0gr00uYOYk>

<https://youtu.be/o25I2fzFGoY>

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### Being tactful/ Soft language

When you speak English, it is very important to say what you mean and express yourself clearly. However, sometimes telling the complete truth might offend someone. For that reason people tend to soften the language they use when they are asked to give opinions, comments, when they criticise or ask for favours

Being tactful in English is not about lying, it is about expressing yourself in a way that will not upset the person you are talking to. There are several ways you can be tactful in English.

<https://youtu.be/rQN4-15AXE0>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/towards-advanced/unit-24/session-1>