

Euphemism and Doublespeak Worksheet

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Sufferer from fictitious disorder syndrome | A. Stolen goods |
| 2. Sub-optimal | B. Junkyard |
| 3. Temporarily displaced inventory | C. Plastic |
| 4. Negative gain in test scores | D. Bag of ice cubes |
| 5. Synthetic glass | E. Bribe |
| 6. Normal gratitude | F. Death |
| 7. Vegetarian leather | G. Liar |
| 8. Thermal therapy kit | H. Vinyl |
| 9. Substantive negative outcome | I. Failed |
| 10. Reutilization marketing yard | J. Lower test scores |

One of the primary uses of euphemism or doublespeak is the military.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Department of Defense | A. Mistakenly attacked by own allies |
| 2. The Peacekeeper | B. Invade country before they can attack yours |
| 3. Collateral damage | C. Land mine |
| 4. Liquidation | D. Formerly War Department |
| 5. Wet work | E. Peace |
| 6. Area denial munitions | F. Large non-nuclear bomb |
| 7. Friendly fire | G. MX missile |
| 8. Pre-hostility | H. Civilian casualties |
| 9. Preemptive war | I. Assassination |
| 10. Psychological deterrent | J. Murder |

Another frequent user of the euphemism is the political arena.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Final Solution | A. Armed political rebel |
| 2. Concentration camp | B. Armed political rebel |
| 3. Ethnic cleansing | C. Prison |
| 4. Freedom Fighter | D. Imprisonment without due process |

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5. Terrorist | E. Genocide |
| 6. Protective custody | F. Genocide carried out by Hitler |
| 7. Executive action | G. Assassination |
| 8. Shared sacrifice | H. Death camp |
| 9. Public speaking without a permit | I. Taxes |
| 10. Internment facility | J. Freedom of speech |

Now try these from society where people's worries about being "politically correct" create these types of euphemisms.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Job seekers | A. Disabled |
| 2. Asylum seekers | B. Beat |
| 3. Pacify | C. Refugees |
| 4. Unsavory character | D. Blind |
| 5. Involuntary conversion | E. Unemployed |
| 6. Differently abled | F. Old person |
| 7. Visually impaired | G. Hippies |
| 8. Senior citizen | H. Plane crash |
| 9. Urban | I. Criminal |
| 10. Counter culture | J. African American |

Connotation, denotation, euphemisms, and doublespeak all make up what we refer to as diction. Diction simply means word choice. As you know already, some words are better than others in certain situations. Complete the following sentences by choosing the appropriate word from the words in parentheses.

- My mother wrote a note about my absence saying I was too _____ to come to school.
(diseased, ill, sick)
- My best friend is _____.
(fat, overweight, obese, flabby, plump)
- After death, the body will _____.
(decay, decompose, rot)
- She is _____.
(ignorant, naïve, unschooled)
- The police report said she was in possession of _____.
(controlled substances, drugs, dope)