

## 9B – Preview Answers

### Matching

Match the euphemisms in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

#### Column A

1. pass away (*e*)
2. big-boned (*h*)
3. bend the truth (*g*)
4. laid off (*f*)
5. lower income bracket (*c*)
6. disabled (*b*)
7. put down (*a*)
8. correctional facility (*d*)

#### Column B

- a. kill
- b. crippled
- c. poor
- d. jail
- e. die
- f. fired
- g. lie
- h. fat

### What does it mean? *Answers will vary*

Explain what you think the speaker means in each sentence.

1. When Martha asked me what I thought of her new haircut, I had to tell a little white lie.  
*The speaker lied to Martha, and probably said that her haircut looked good when he thought it didn't.*
2. You got detention again? Just wait 'til your father gets home.  
*Your father will be very angry when he finds out what you did.*
3. Rick's a really smart guy, but he's between jobs at the moment.  
*Rick is unemployed.*
4. You should have seen the look on his face when I told him how much the new house would cost.  
*The man was very surprised by how expensive the new house was.*
5. Military forces today neutralised the leader of the terrorist organisation.  
*The army killed the leader of the terrorist organisation.*
6. Ben is not doing so well in school. We think he may be intellectually challenged.  
*Ben has lower than average intelligence. (Ben is stupid.)*
7. I'm afraid your father is no longer with us.  
*Your father is dead.*
8. This quarter the company entered a non-profit situation.  
*The company did not make any money.*

### Your turn *Answers will vary*

*Have you ever had to give someone bad news? Did you tell them directly or break it to them gently? I once had to tell my younger brother that his pet fish had died. I just told him, "Your fish is dead," but now I wish I had said something different. He cried for a week.*

*Why do you think people prefer euphemisms like those above to more direct language? I think people prefer euphemisms because they are a nicer way of telling people bad news.*

*Can you think of any other English euphemisms you have heard? "I think we should try seeing other people," means that your boyfriend or girlfriend wants to break up with you.*