

MAKE A LIST OF: As a warm-up, go around the circle naming things for each list below.

- things you like to do by yourself
- things you own, but rarely use
- things that make you sleepy
- things that make you smile
- things that make loud noises
- things to put in a sandwich
- things that make your feel better when you are sad

Read. Discuss the underlined vocabulary. Summarize each paragraph without looking at it. Discuss the questions.

The man was decrepit. He had high blood pressure, cancer, and liver disease and he aggravated his situation by smoking. His prognosis was death. With his advanced lung cancer the old man was terminal. His family members knew he would pass away soon. So no one was surprised to find him dead on that sharp winter Thursday. No one, that is, except one sharp-eyed detective who noticed the window ajar on the morning of the old man's death. Would a fatally ill person be likely to sleep with the window open on a freezing night?

This question occupied forensic specialists from the medical examiner's office. There, an autopsy revealed an unlikely wound on the victim's thigh. Such a wound could easily have been inflicted by someone administering medicine...or poison. From there, the poison could travel through the veins, shutting down vital organs and causing death within seconds.

Indeed, the death turned out to be murder in the first degree. Criminal investigators persisted in their questioning of friends and family, only later finding the motive: money. Two distant relatives who stood to inherit large sums from the old man's estate plotted the death, believing that the old man's death would not be questioned.

aggravate: to make worse, to anger or intensify. (noun form-aggravation)

decrepit: weakened or worn out because of age, illness or excessive use

fatally: causing death (noun form-fatality)

forensics: the use of science to investigate facts in criminal cases

prognosis: an educated guess of how something will develop

terminal: approaching death

indeed: indicates that an idea in an earlier paragraph was actually true

1. Euphemism means a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. In this article, pass away is a euphemism for die. Other euphemisms are: pass on, expire, go to heaven, kick the bucket, cross over.

Do you have euphemisms about death in your culture? Do you talk about death and dying to your elderly parents or grandparents? Do you talk about it with your children? Would you allow a small child to go to a loved relatives funeral?

2. Here are some other euphemisms. Read the sentences and find the word in the chart at the bottom that has the same meaning.

- He's getting a little thin on top.
- We are hoping that armed intervention is not necessary in Syria.
- After the hunter shot, the animal went belly up.
- Ted is between jobs right now.
- I just heard that Sally is in the family way.
- Jim has suffered from a chemical dependency for years.
- While he was in Afghanistan serving his country, he got a Dear John letter from his girlfriend.
- The detainee was transferred to county jail.
- The high price of organic produce acts as a disincentive to eat healthy food.
- The investigation proved he was killed by friendly fire.
- Happy Hour only lasts until 7 PM.
- Stay tuned for this message from our sponsor.

died	pregnant	commercial	break up message
war	prisoner	shots from your own army	period of time when alcoholic drinks are cheaper than normal
drug addiction	bald	unemployed	penalty