ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Euphemisms in English Quiz: Examples and Tactful Phrases

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Explanations

1. We were very sorry to hear that your father is no ___ with us.
✔ **B) longer**
No longer with us: a gentle way to say someone has died.

2. She ___ her husband three years ago and still finds Christmas hard.
✔ **D) lost**
Families say they lost someone: that person died.

3. After twenty years, the bank ___ him go with three months' pay.
✔ **A) let**
Let someone go: a manager's soft way to say you no longer have a job.

4. "What do you do?" "I'm ___ jobs at the moment, but I have an interview on Monday."
✔ **C) between**
Between jobs: you have no job right now, but you expect to find one soon.

5. When managers announce a ___, staff often fear job cuts.
✔ **B) restructuring**
In company language, a restructuring usually means jobs will go.

6. "It has been a ___ year," said the boss, after profits fell by half.
✔ **A) challenging**
In reports and speeches, challenging means very difficult, maybe a disaster.

7. In the showroom, the salesman never says second-hand. He calls the cars ___.
✔ **D) pre-owned**
Pre-owned is sales talk for second-hand.

8. Cinema tickets are half price for ___ on Tuesdays.
✔ **C) senior citizens**
Senior citizens: a polite, slightly old-fashioned phrase for people over about 65.

9. My cousin is ___ twins in March.
✔ **A) expecting**
Be expecting (a baby): be pregnant. Embarrassed means red-faced and awkward.

10. They're not rich, but they're ___. Every winter they give coats to families who are ___.
✔ **B) comfortable … less fortunate**
Comfortable: rich enough, without saying rich. Less fortunate: poor, said gently.

11. The minister didn't lie, exactly. He was just ___ with the truth.
✔ **C) economical**
Economical with the truth: you say nothing false, but you leave out the important parts.

12. The army called the deaths of villagers "___", and critics said the phrase hid the truth.
✔ **D) collateral damage**
Collateral damage: the army aims at one target and hits people or things nearby. Critics say the phrase hides real deaths.

13. ___, Professor, your figures are five years old.
✔ **B) With all due respect**
With all due respect sounds polite but warns that disagreement is coming.

14. The hotel room was a bit on the small ___, and the staff weren't ___ friendly.
✔ **A) side … exactly**
On the small side: a softer way to say too small. Not exactly friendly: quite unfriendly.

15. This old jacket ___ a wash before the wedding.
✔ **C) could do with**
Could do with: something needs it, said politely.

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