Euphemism Practice

A euphemism is a polite way of saying something that might be sad, unpleasant, or shocking. For instance, if a teacher tells your mom or dad that you are “very social” they are really saying you “talk too much”.

The expressions in italics are euphemisms. What do they probably mean?

1. She was less favored by beauty than her sister
2. Someone borrowed money from my locker without asking me.
3. I just bought a pre-owned car yesterday.
4. I just won a lunch reservation from Mr. Simon.
5. The caretaker does an excellent job at Braden.
6. I got in a bit of trouble for stretching the truth about the broken lamp.
7. Now I’m headed for the correctional facility again.
8. Where do I work? Actually, I’m between jobs at the moment.
9. Now that I’m getting up there in years I don’t like birthdays so much.
10. Eric’s driving skills leave plenty of room for improvement.

Now that you are familiar with this figure of speech, think of something you could soften using a euphemism. Make up five euphemisms and see if we can guess what they mean.

1. ____________________________ = ____________________________
2. ____________________________ = ____________________________
3. ____________________________ = ____________________________
4. ____________________________ = ____________________________
5. ____________________________ = ____________________________