Grade 9 English

CBC NOTES | Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 75 topics

IN EVERY TOPIC

- What you will learn, the key words and key terms explained.
- Clear notes under headings and subheadings, with labelled pictures and step-by-step procedures.
- Comparison tables, and advantages and disadvantages where methods are compared.
- Key points to remember, then multiple-choice and structured questions.
- All the answers and a glossary at the back.

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Strand 1.0 Citizenship | Term 1

1.1.1 Polite Language

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- outline words and phrases used to express euphemism
- use euphemism to show politeness in communication
- conduct a debate while adhering to conventions of polite language
- acknowledge the importance of politeness in communication

KEY WORDS

euphemism, polite, blunt, debate, proposer, opposer, chairperson, point of order.

Good citizens speak to others with respect, even when they disagree or have to say something unpleasant. In this topic we learn euphemisms, the polite words we use in place of harsh ones, and the polite language used in a formal debate.

1. Euphemism

> **Euphemism**
> A mild or polite word or phrase used in place of one that may sound harsh, rude or upsetting.

Blunt words and their euphemisms

Blunt	Polite (euphemism)
He died.	He passed away.
She was sacked.	She was let go.
Where is the toilet?	Where can I wash my hands?
You are fat.	You have gained a little weight.
He is old.	He is a senior citizen.
They are poor.	They are less fortunate.

Saying difficult things politely

Blunt	Polite (euphemism)
He died.	He passed away.
She was sacked.	She was let go.
He is old.	He is a senior citizen.
Where is the toilet?	Where can I wash my hands?
They are poor.	They are less fortunate.

Saying difficult things politely

2. When to use euphemisms

- When giving bad news, such as a death or an illness, to spare people's feelings.
- When talking about the body, age or appearance, to avoid embarrassing anyone.
- In formal situations such as speeches, letters and debates.

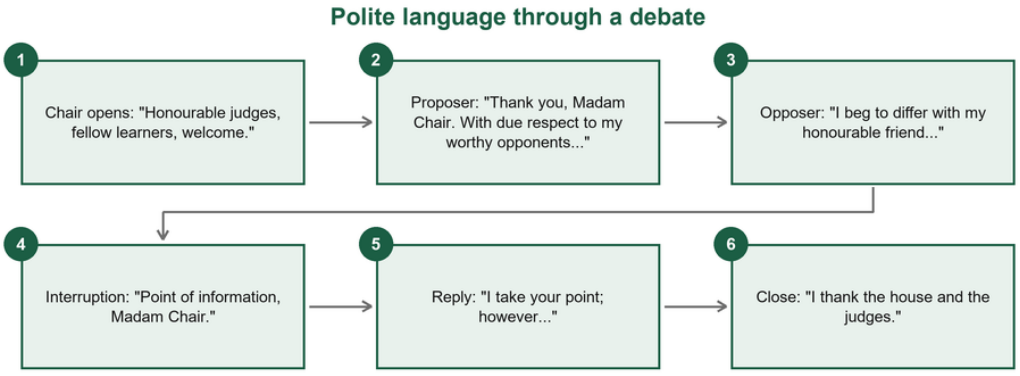
DO NOT OVERDO IT

A euphemism must still be clear. In a medical or legal report, say exactly what happened so nobody is misled.

3. Polite language in a debate

Polite language in a debate

Speaker	Polite language
Chairperson	"Honourable judges, fellow learners, welcome. I now invite the principal speaker for the proposing side."
Proposer	"Thank you, Madam Chair. With due respect to my worthy opponents, I wish to state that phones help learners to research."
Opposer	"I beg to differ with my honourable friend. Phones distract learners."
Any speaker	"Point of information, Madam Chair." "I take your point; however..."



Polite phrases for each stage of a debate

4. Conventions of a debate

- Address the chairperson, not the opponent directly.
- Stand when speaking and keep to the time given.
- Attack the argument, never the person.
- Wait to be recognised before raising a point of information.
- Accept the judges' decision and thank the house at the end.

Politeness builds trust, keeps discussion calm and helps people of different views live and work together.