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eu·phe·mism  (y fə-mīz'əm)

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n.

1. A mild, indirect, or vague term for one that is considered harsh, blunt, or offensive: *"Euphemisms such as 'slumber room' ... abound in the funeral business" (Jessica Mitford).*
2. The use of such terms: *"Euphemism is common in hospital and medical facilities where bodily functions need to be discussed" (Diane F. Halpern).*

[Greek *euphēmos*, from *euphēizein*, to use auspicious words, from *euphēmiā*, use of auspicious words : *eu-*, *eu-* + *phēmē*, speech; see **bhā-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

eu phe·mist *n.*

eu'phe·mis tic (-mīs tīk) *adj.*

eu'phe·mis ti·cal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

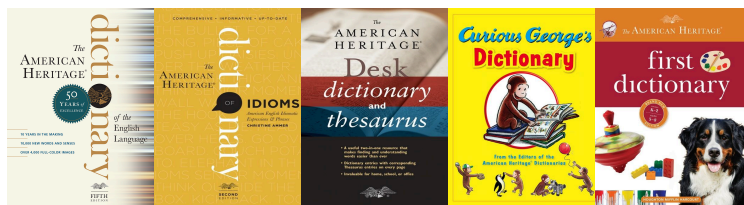
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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