

Formal & Informal Language

Anchor Charts & Task Cards

What is Formal Language?

Formal language is used in situations where you are speaking with a person that is in a position of power. Examples of formal language in daily life might include interactions with a teacher, waiter/waitress, principal, police officer, or business person. Formal language is also used in structured situations or texts like interviews, business letters, speeches, research papers, and news reports.

Grammatically correct English is a key element to formal language and it is frequently written in third person.



©Kirsten Tulison

How would you say it **informally**? How would you say it **formally**?

Informal Language	Formal Language
Yo! What's up?	How are you?
I'm gonna eat a snack.	I am hungry for a snack.
Uh-huh, we're gonna chill.	We are going to relax.
This stuff is awesome!	We really enjoy these things!
Please lemme go to...	May I please go to...



Read the following sentence(s) and determine whether it is formal or informal language.

My mother and father expect their children to exhibit good manners in public.

- A. Formal language
B. Informal language

©Kirsten Tulison

Words Commonly Used in Informal Language

what's up?	kinda	gonna	cuz
U	ya	wanna	totally
cool	Yo!	okay	thanks
what?	but		yep
hi			
fr			

2nd-4th Grade



What choo want for dinner tonight? I jus' don't wanna eat pizza for the four hundredth time!

©Kirsten Tulison

KIRSTEN'S
Kaboodle



Read the following sentence(s) and determine whether it is formal or informal language.

My school is so awesome. I get to hang out with my friends all day.

- A. Formal language
B. Informal language

©Kirsten Tulison



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in informal language?

I totally want a dog for my birthday! Wouldn't that be awesome?

©Kirsten Tulison

What is Formal Language?

Formal language is used in situations where you are speaking with a person that is in a position of power. Examples of formal language in daily life might include interactions with a teacher, waiter/waitress, principal, police officer, or business person. Formal language is also used in structured situations or texts like interviews, business letters, speeches, research papers, and news reports.

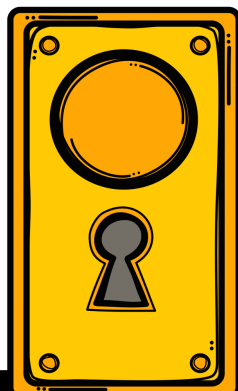
Grammatically correct English is a key element to formal language and it is frequently written in third person point of view.



What is Informal Language?

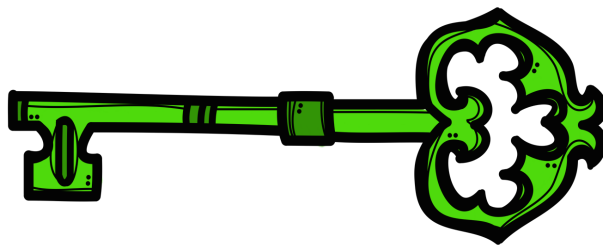
Informal language is used in situations that are casual and personal. Everyday conversations with friends at school, on the telephone, and through text or email are usually informal. Some of this language may not be grammatically correct (such as simplifications or abbreviations).

You might use informal language at a friend's house, but switch to formal language while speaking with that friend's parents.



How would you say it **informally**?
How would you say it **formally**?

Informal Language	Formal Language
Yo! What's up?	How are you?
I'm gonna eat a snack.	I am hungry for a snack.
Un-huh, we're gonna chill.	We are going to relax.
This stuff is awesome!	We really enjoy these things!
Please lemme go to Jimmy's house after school!	May I please go to Jimmy's house after school?
Whatcha gonna do about it?	What will you do about this situation?
I paid, like, 20 bucks for that thing!	The cost of this item was \$20.



Words Commonly Used in Informal Language

what's up?	kinda	gonna	cuz
U	ya	wanna	totally
cool	Yo!	okay	thanks
what?	huh?	uh-huh	yep
hi	stuff	TV	photos
first names	yea	dunno	that's sweet!
legit	ASAP	no prob	LOL
love ya	haha	that's sick	peace out

*It is also generally accepted that contractions are **not** used in formal speech. Of course, there are always exceptions to every rule.

Are there other informal words or phrases that you use? How about informal words or phrases that are popular in your school? In your community? In your family?



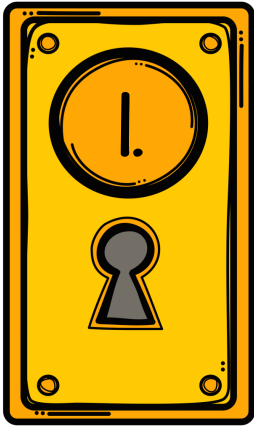
Formal
and
informal
Language
Task Cards



©Kirsten Tulsian

**Follow the directions
on each task card.
Record your answers
on the answer sheet.**

©Kirsten Tulsian

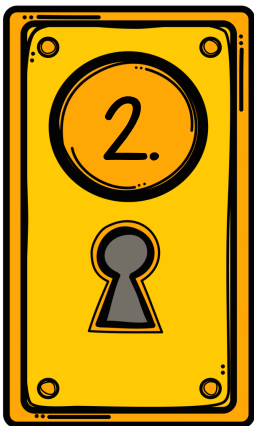


Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**My mother and father
expect their children to exhibit
good manners in public.**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**My school is so awesome.
I get to hang out with my
friends all day.**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian

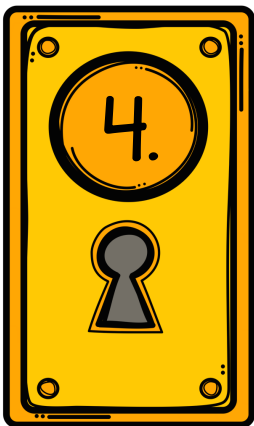


Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**I'm not sure what I'm gonna
do! I feel kinda sick and I
don't wanna go to school.**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**I'll see ya after the
movie is over.**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian

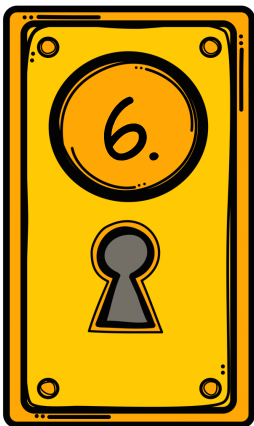


Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**I am calling to inquire about
the volunteering opportunities
during the summer.**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**Geez! Sam needs to stop
cryin' over spilt milk!**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian

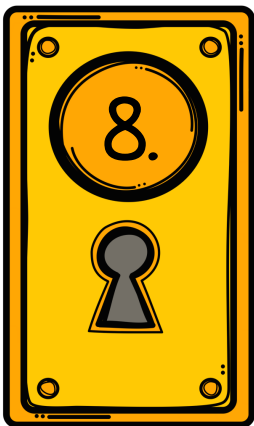


Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**May I please have
dessert with the Jones
family after dinner?**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian

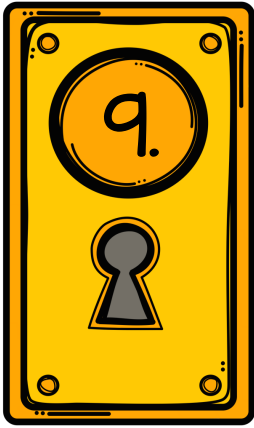


Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**When a male gorilla reaches 10-13
years of age, he can develop a
silver coloring on his back.**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian

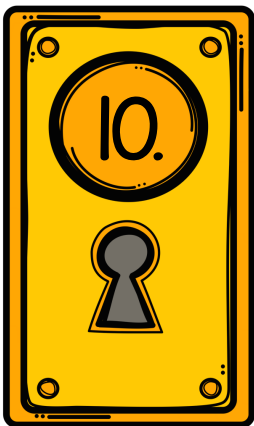


Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**Man, I really wish I
could play ball every
night of the week!**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian

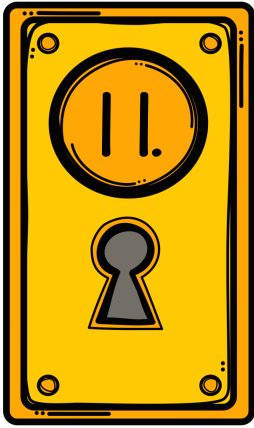


Read the following sentence(s)
and determine whether it is
formal or informal language.

**One of my strengths related
to school is my ability to
comprehend new information.**

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian

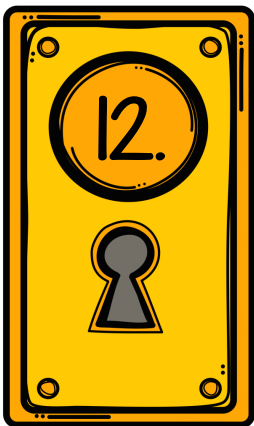


Read the following sentence(s) and determine whether it is formal or informal language.

I apologize for not calling sooner. I know it was irresponsible.

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

©Kirsten Tulsian

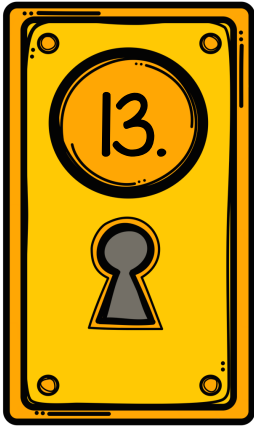


Read the following sentence(s) and determine whether it is formal or informal language.

Hi! You think we can hang out next weekend?

- A. formal language
- B. informal language

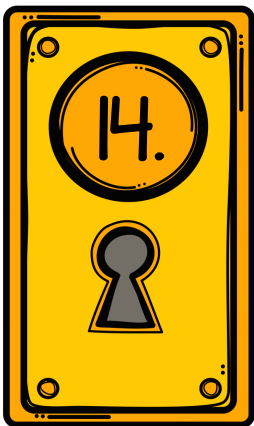
©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

Thank you for coming in to speak with us today. We will be notifying and hiring applicants this afternoon.

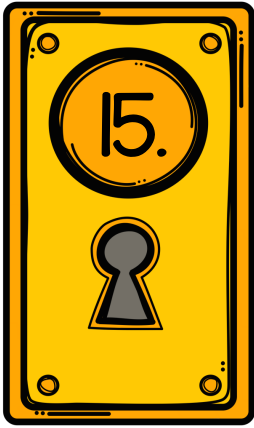
©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

The bell is gonna ring in two minutes! Hurry up and kick the ball!

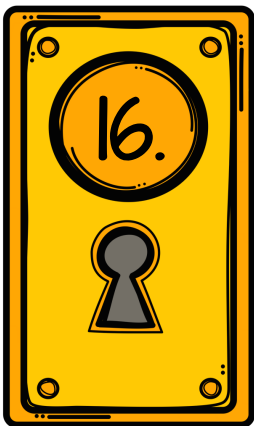
©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

Geez, I can't believe she said no! I just wanna sleep over so we can hang out longer.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

I chose to write a research paper on George Washington because I have a desire to learn about our country's history.

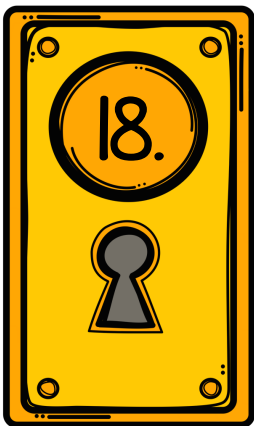
©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

You should totally come and check out the sweet bike my brother got!

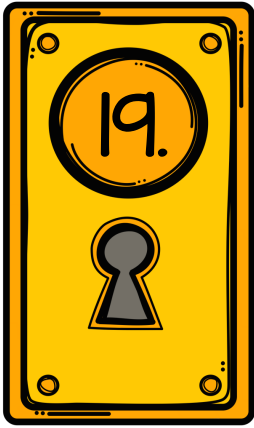
©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

I would like a small salad with ranch dressing, and an order of mashed potatoes, please.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

Can you please tell me your hours of operation during the holidays?

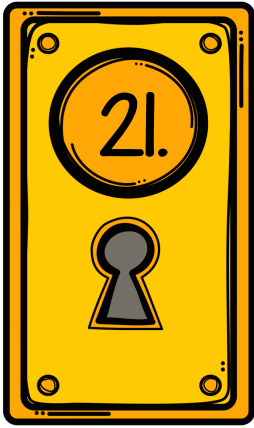
©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

Temperatures in the valley are at record lows for the season. Wind chill temperatures will fall below zero for much of the evening.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

Ugh, you need to start sharing the ball. We could've won that game!

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

The smell coming from the cafeteria made me wanna puke my guts out!

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

You are receiving a ticket for failure to use a crosswalk when crossing the street.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Read the following sentence(s). Is the language formal or informal? Make an inference about the context or the setting.

I can't believe you're wearing a jacket! I'd be a puddle of nasty sweat by now.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in formal language?

**Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.
Sincerely,
John Pinkerton**

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in formal language?

Polar bears live in areas where they can hunt seals at openings in the ice called leads.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in formal language?

Please give this package to your mother or father when they arrive home from work.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in formal language?

Artist Sally Sunshine creates unique paintings that draw crowds from near and far.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in formal language?

Thank you for your submission. I regret to inform you that we are not able to publish your work at this time.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in formal language?

May I please use the restroom?

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in informal language?

I'm not sure what's up, but I think we are leaving for the movie around 7:00 or so.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in informal language?

Miss Jones thinks you are the cat's meow. I mean, she always calls on you and stuff.

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in informal language?

It took, like, an hour to get home from school cuz of the crazy snow!

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in informal language?

**I hope u feel better!
I'll call ya later on!**

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in informal language?

What choo want for dinner tonight? I jus' don't wanna eat pizza for the four hundredth time!

©Kirsten Tulsian



Which words help you know that the following passage is written in informal language?

I totally want a dog for my birthday! Wouldn't that be awesome?

©Kirsten Tulsian

Name: _____ Date: _____

Formal and Informal Language Answer Sheet

Answer	
1.	A
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13. formal	some kind of interview
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	
18.	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Formal and Informal Language Answer Sheet

Answer	
19.	
20.	
21.	
22.	
23.	
24.	
25.	advance, cooperation, sincerely, full name signature
26.	
27.	
28.	
29.	
30.	
31.	
32.	
33.	
34.	
35.	
36.	

Name: Answer Key Date: _____

Formal and Informal Language Answer Sheet

Answer	
1.	A
2.	B
3.	B
4.	B
5.	A
6.	B
7.	A
8.	A
9.	B
10.	A
11.	A
12.	B
13. formal	some kind of interview
14. informal	recess or playground at school
15. informal	asking mom for a sleepover
16. formal	writing a report/giving a speech
17. informal	talking to a friend
18. formal	ordering at a restaurant

Name: Answer Key Date: _____

Formal and Informal Language Answer Sheet

Answer	
19. formal	speaking to a business
20. formal	weather report on the news
21. informal	end of a game (basketball, soccer, etc.)
22. informal	school hallway or classroom
23. formal	police officer giving a ticket
24. informal	talking with a friend about heat
25.	advance, cooperation, sincerely, full name signature
26.	structure of research paper or report
27.	please, mother, father, arrive
28.	structure of report- creates, unique
29.	submission, regret to inform
30.	May I please
31.	what's up
32.	cat's meow, I mean, stuff
33.	like, cuz
34.	u, ya
35.	choo, jus', wanna
36.	totally, awesome

Additional Products:

Character
Traits

Figurative
Language

Grammar

Literature
Units

Task
Cards

Vocabulary

Writing

Find Me Here:



Terms of Use:

- Purchasing this product allows the purchaser the right to reproduce this product for his/her class. Duplication for an entire team, school, or school district is strictly forbidden. If other teachers would like copies of this product, please direct them to my store or purchase additional licenses for those teachers through my TPT store.
- You may not reproduce, redistribute, or post this item on a blog or website for download (free or paid). Copying any part of this product (even for a classroom website) is also in violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.
- You may not modify, copy, or alter this product in any way.
- Please feel free to spread the word about this product via social media or blog post. A link to the product (or my store) is much appreciated.

Design Credits:

