Listen for Register

How spoken language shapes meaning and response

11.LL.20 "Analyze the formality of language in a variety of audible sources in order to comprehend, interpret, and respond appropriately."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that sound formal and circle two that sound casual or uncertain. Number the three audio sources from most to least reliable for deciding where to board the bus.

Three Voices, One Route Change

1. On Monday afternoon, students waiting for the Route 6 bus heard a recording from the city transit office. A steady voice said, "Attention, Route 6 passengers. Beginning Tuesday, the Maple Street bridge will close for repairs. The stop at Maple and Third will not be served Tuesday through Thursday. Please use the temporary stop at Oak and Third. For accessibility assistance, contact the transit office by 5 p.m. Monday." The speaker paused after each instruction and pronounced both street names distinctly. A soft chime played before the recording repeated; no driver or passenger answered questions during the message.

2. That evening, the school radio show aired a segment about the same change. The host laughed lightly and said, "Okay, bus riders, the Maple stop is out for three days, starting Tuesday. Head one block over to Oak and Third, or you'll be waving at a bus that never shows. If getting to the new stop is tricky, the city wants a call before five today." A second host asked, "Wait, today as in Monday?" and the first replied, "Yep, Monday." Their exchange sounded spontaneous, although they repeated the city's deadline and named the temporary stop.

3. A minute later, a student sent a voice message to the show's group chat. Over hallway noise, she said, "Hey, I heard they might let us catch the bus by the grocery store instead. My cousin said a driver told him, maybe? Anyway, don't quote me." She did not name a cross street or say when that possible pickup would begin. Someone nearby laughed, but no one supplied a street name. The school's radio hosts had not received an update from the transit office, so they did not announce the grocery store as a stop.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which detail of the recording's sound and which detail of its wording suit an official service notice? Explain your choices.

2. How do the radio hosts sound less formal than the recording? What detail about the deadline could their shorter wording obscure?

3. Which words make the student's grocery-store claim uncertain? Based on the three sources, where should a rider plan to board?

4. You call the transit office to check the grocery-store claim. Write a question that fits that audience and distinguishes the rumored location from the confirmed stop.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you hear a principal announce over the intercom, "Due to a power outage, tomorrow's debate tournament will begin at noon instead of 9 a.m." Later, a teammate says, "Whoa, late start! Wanna practice at ten?" Write one sentence asking the principal for a practical clarification and one sentence replying to your teammate, using a fitting level of formality for each.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 11 · 11.LL.20

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that sound formal and circle two that sound casual or uncertain. Number the three audio sources from most to least reliable for deciding where to board the bus. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which detail of the recording's sound and which detail of its wording suit an official service notice? Explain your choices.	**The steady voice and pauses make instructions easier to follow. "Please use the temporary stop at Oak and Third" gives a precise, courteous direction.**
2	How do the radio hosts sound less formal than the recording? What detail about the deadline could their shorter wording obscure?	**They laugh, joke about waving at a bus, and say "Yep." Their wording could obscure that the city's 5 p.m. Monday deadline is specifically for accessibility assistance.**
3	Which words make the student's grocery-store claim uncertain? Based on the three sources, where should a rider plan to board?	**"I heard," "might," "maybe," and "don't quote me" signal uncertainty. The rider should plan to use the temporary stop at Oak and Third.**
4	You call the transit office to check the grocery-store claim. Write a question that fits that audience and distinguishes the rumored location from the confirmed stop.	**Could you please confirm whether riders may board by the grocery store as well as at the temporary stop at Oak and Third?**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Could you please confirm whether students should check in at the usual location before the tournament begins at noon? Sure, let's practice at ten so we're ready for the later start.

For the marking job, accept the city recording as most reliable, the radio show second, and the voice message third. Accept other well-supported language choices in the short answers and a range of natural responses in Part 3 if they reflect the noon start and suit each listener.