

Talk Shift Challenge

Change your words to fit the audience and purpose.

GRADE 7 • SL.7.6

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.6 "Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Speak in complete sentences.

2 Use a card only when its starter fits your idea.

3 Match your words and tone to the listener and purpose.

4 Let each speaker finish before you respond.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one TOPIC card and read the task aloud.
2. Each player takes a different ROLE card and reads the job.
3. Deal four MOVE cards to each player from repeated card sets.
4. Discuss both contexts on the topic card. When you use a starter meaningfully, place that card in the middle.
5. End the round when every card is in the middle, then check the reflection statements.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I changed my language for a formal and a casual context.

☐ I used complete sentences and clear word choices.

☐ I explained why the audience or purpose changed my wording.

☐ I listened and built on another speaker's idea.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Water Station Plan what you would say in a formal request to the principal and in a casual talk with a friend about adding a water bottle filling station.	Lunch Book Club Plan how to ask the librarian formally to host a lunch book club, then explain the idea casually to a friend.	Extra Practice Plan how to ask a coach formally for ten more minutes of practice, then explain the request casually to a teammate.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Audience Scout Name the listener and purpose before the group chooses its wording.	Formality Judge Listen for words and tone that fit a formal or casual setting, and suggest one change when needed.	Detail Finder Ask for a clear request or reason so the message fits its purpose.	Balance Captain Notice who has spoken and invite a quieter player to use a card.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
FORMAL ASK “In a formal message, I would say, “____.””	FORMAL DETAIL “To sound formal, I would add, “____.””	CASUAL TELL “With a friend, I would say, “____.””	CASUAL EXPLAIN “In a casual conversation, I would say, “____.””
MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
AUDIENCE MATCH “Because our audience is ____, we should ____.”	PURPOSE MATCH “Our purpose is to ____, so I will ____.”	WORD SWAP “Let us replace “____” with “____.””	TONE CHECK “That wording sounds ____ because ____.”

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print repeated sets of the eight move cards so every player receives four cards. Run one topic per round, and allow a card to be played only after its starter is used in a meaningful complete sentence. With three players, leave out any role, and if participation is uneven, have the Balance Captain pause the talk until another player uses a fitting card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Ava	Because our audience is the principal, we should use respectful, specific language.
Mateo	In a formal message, I would say, "Could the school add a water bottle filling station near the playground?"
Nia	Let us replace "We need water outside" with "Students would benefit from a water bottle filling station near the playground."
Owen	With a friend, I would say, "I hope the school adds a place to refill our water bottles outside."
Ava	That wording sounds casual because it uses everyday words and shares a personal opinion.

LISTEN FOR

- Formal requests use respectful, precise wording
- Casual versions remain clear and complete
- Students name the audience and purpose
- Students revise word choice or tone after listening

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.