Hear the Difference

Listen to formal and informal language, then respond appropriately.

7.LL.20 "Identify a speaker's formality of language in order to comprehend, interpret, and respond appropriately."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FORMAL LANGUAGE

Formal language uses careful, polite wording. A speaker might use it with someone they do not know well or in an official setting.

Kindly accept sincere apologies regarding yesterday's disruption.

INFORMAL LANGUAGE

Informal language sounds relaxed and conversational. A speaker might use it with friends and may include slang or shortened words.

Whoa, such a goofy puppy!

1 SORT

8 items

Cover all item text. Your teacher reads a statement; say FORMAL or INFORMAL and a clue aloud before revealing that row to circle your answer. Keep later rows covered. Ask for repeats as needed.

1.	I respectfully request permission to enter the laboratory.	FORMAL INFORMAL
2.	Thank you for considering my proposal.	FORMAL INFORMAL
3.	Hey, wanna grab pizza later?	FORMAL INFORMAL
4.	It is my pleasure to introduce our guest.	FORMAL INFORMAL
5.	That game was totally wild!	FORMAL INFORMAL
6.	Nah, I'm just gonna hang out.	FORMAL INFORMAL
7.	Would you clarify the schedule for the meeting?	FORMAL INFORMAL
8.	I regret that I cannot attend the ceremony.	FORMAL INFORMAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one heard statement from each category. Explain its meaning and a formality clue, then say an appropriate reply to a partner.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one formal statement and one informal statement. Deliver each to a partner, who listens and gives a fitting reply. Switch roles.

FORMAL _____

INFORMAL _____

CHALLENGE

Hear item 3 again. Write a more formal reply that accepts or declines the invitation, and explain how your wording fits a polite reply.

ANSWER KEY

Hear the Difference

GRADE 7 · 7.LL.20

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	I respectfully request permission to enter the laboratory.	**FORMAL**	"Respectfully request permission" is careful, polite wording.
2	Thank you for considering my proposal.	**FORMAL**	"Considering my proposal" uses polite, measured wording.
3	Hey, wanna grab pizza later?	**INFORMAL**	"Hey," "wanna," and "grab pizza" sound conversational.
4	It is my pleasure to introduce our guest.	**FORMAL**	"It is my pleasure" is a polished introduction.
5	That game was totally wild!	**INFORMAL**	"Totally wild" is casual wording.
6	Nah, I'm just gonna hang out.	**INFORMAL**	"Nah," "gonna," and "hang out" are relaxed, conversational words.
7	Would you clarify the schedule for the meeting?	**FORMAL**	"Would you clarify" makes a polite, direct request.
8	I regret that I cannot attend the ceremony.	**FORMAL**	"I regret" and "cannot attend" use measured wording.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one heard statement from each category. Explain its meaning and a formality clue, then say an appropriate reply to a partner.
Accept an explanation that answers every part of the task and identifies the deciding feature for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FORMAL**: I would be grateful for an update on the application.
- **INFORMAL**: Yo, this song is so cool!

Challenge: Thank you for inviting me, but I am unavailable this evening. I thanked the speaker and declined clearly using complete, polite wording.

Read items aloud from a separate copy before students reveal the text. For Part 2, require an accurate interpretation, a heard language clue, and an actual spoken reply fitting the message. Formal and informal language can both be polite. Accept suitable acceptance or refusal in the challenge; rewriting the invitation itself is not a reply. Require both partners to listen and respond.