Match the Tone

Listen for formality, interpret the message, and respond.

10.LL.17 "Classify formality of language in order to comprehend, interpret, and respond appropriately."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FORMAL

Formal language fits official messages or readers you do not know well. It uses precise wording and avoids slang.

Museum admission resumes after repairs.

INFORMAL

Informal language fits casual conversations with friends. It may use slang or relaxed wording.

Whoa, these tacos taste amazing!

1 SORT

8 items

Teacher or partner: read each item aloud twice, naming its number. Listeners cover the item text and circle FORMAL or INFORMAL from what they hear, then uncover it to check. For Part 2, choose one item from each category, explain wording you heard, and state what each message means.

1.	Please submit your application by noon.	FORMAL INFORMAL
2.	The committee recommends revising the proposal.	FORMAL INFORMAL
3.	That movie was kinda awesome!	FORMAL INFORMAL
4.	We regret that your reservation has been canceled.	FORMAL INFORMAL
5.	Hey, can you grab my bag?	FORMAL INFORMAL
6.	No way, that game was super fun!	FORMAL INFORMAL
7.	Your request has been approved.	FORMAL INFORMAL
8.	I'm gonna head out now.	FORMAL INFORMAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category. Explain which words you heard helped you classify it, and state what each message means.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Prepare one formal and one informal sentence. Say each to a partner without showing the text. The listener identifies the formality, explains the message, and gives a suitable reply; then switch roles.

FORMAL _____

INFORMAL _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite item 5 as a formal request to a staff member, keeping its meaning. Then name one word or phrase you changed.

ANSWER KEY

Match the Tone

GRADE 10 · 10.LL.17

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Please submit your application by noon.	**FORMAL**	The polite request uses precise wording.
2	The committee recommends revising the proposal.	**FORMAL**	The sentence uses precise, professional wording.
3	That movie was kinda awesome!	**INFORMAL**	The casual words 'kinda' and 'awesome' signal informal speech.
4	We regret that your reservation has been canceled.	**FORMAL**	The wording is suited to an official notice.
5	Hey, can you grab my bag?	**INFORMAL**	The greeting 'Hey' and the casual verb 'grab' signal informal speech.
6	No way, that game was super fun!	**INFORMAL**	The exclamation and casual phrase 'No way' signal informal speech.
7	Your request has been approved.	**FORMAL**	The precise wording is suited to an official response.
8	I'm gonna head out now.	**INFORMAL**	The casual wording 'gonna' and 'head out' signals informal speech.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category. Explain which words you heard helped you classify it, and state what each message means.
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**: Attendance is required for the meeting.
- **INFORMAL**: I can't believe we won!

Challenge: Could you please retrieve my bag? I changed 'grab' to 'retrieve.'

In Part 2, accept explanations that identify a specific word or phrase from each chosen item and connect it to the correct category. For example, 'kinda' is casual, while 'recommends revising' is professional wording. Read items aloud before listeners consult the printed text. In Part 2, also check accurate interpretation. Observe each partner listening and giving an appropriate reply; written sorting alone does not demonstrate listening. Judge wording and context, not accent.