Speak to Fit

Notice how audience and feedback shape a speaker's words.

5.SL.6 "Adapt speech to a variety of contexts, audience, and tasks, using feedback from self and others and demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle Maya's words to Leo, underline her words to the principal, and write 1 beside Leo's advice and 2 beside what Maya notices in her recording to track how she adapts her speech.

Maya Makes Her Case

1. During lunch, Maya told her friend Leo about the muddy path beside their school garden. "That path is a total mess. We should put down wood chips so nobody slips," she said. Later, Maya would speak at a meeting with the principal about getting wood chips. She knew the principal needed a clear request, not just a complaint. Maya practiced saying, "The garden path becomes slippery after rain."

2. Leo listened to Maya practice. "Tell the principal what you need and where the chips would go," he suggested. Maya recorded herself on a tablet and noticed that she rushed through her last sentence. She slowed down and tried again: "Could the school provide wood chips for the path beside the garden?" She planned to pause after the question so the principal could respond.

3. At the meeting, Maya stood straight and said, "The path beside our school garden gets slippery after rain. Could the school provide wood chips to cover it?" The principal asked how students could help. Maya replied, "Our garden club could spread the chips with adult supervision." Afterward, she told Leo, "I was nervous, but I slowed down. Now let's see what the principal says!"

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya change her words between lunch and the meeting to fit her audience? Give one example from each.

2. What did Leo suggest Maya add to her request? Which words in her practice request show that she used his advice?

3. What did Maya notice when she listened to her recording, and how did she change the way she spoke?

4. When the principal asked how students could help, what did Maya say? Why did that answer fit the meeting?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences you could say to a librarian to request a quiet reading corner, using formal English and giving a clear reason. Then write one casual sentence about your request to a friend and one sentence naming a change you would make after listening to yourself practice.

ANSWER KEY

Speak to Fit

GRADE 5 · 5.SL.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle Maya's words to Leo, underline her words to the principal, and write 1 beside Leo's advice and 2 beside what Maya notices in her recording to track how she adapts her speech. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya change her words between lunch and the meeting to fit her audience? Give one example from each.	**With Leo, Maya calls the path "a total mess." With the principal, she explains that it gets slippery after rain and politely asks for wood chips.**
2	What did Leo suggest Maya add to her request? Which words in her practice request show that she used his advice?	**Leo suggested saying what she needed and where it would go. Maya asked for "wood chips for the path beside the garden."**
3	What did Maya notice when she listened to her recording, and how did she change the way she spoke?	**She noticed that she rushed her last sentence. She slowed down and planned to pause after her question.**
4	When the principal asked how students could help, what did Maya say? Why did that answer fit the meeting?	**Maya said the garden club could spread the chips with adult supervision. Her answer gave the principal a clear, practical plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Could the library set aside a quiet reading corner during lunch? It would help students focus on books when the cafeteria is noisy. I asked the librarian for a chill spot to read at lunch. When I practiced, I heard myself speak too quickly, so I would slow down.

Accept other accurate examples from the passage that show Maya changing her words or delivery for her audience. For Part 3, look for a formal request and reason, a noticeably more casual sentence for a friend, and a specific change based on self-feedback.