Words for the Moment

Match language choices to purpose and audience

6.L.3.b "Recognize variations from standard or formal English in writing and speaking, determine their appropriateness for the intended purpose and audience, and make changes as necessary."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two casual phrases in Nia's text and gate speech, and circle two formal phrases in her email and reception greeting. Write 1 beside each phrase meant for friends or families and 2 beside each phrase meant for school leaders or visiting guests.

One Event, Three Audiences

1. On Monday, Nia's science club got permission to plan a telescope night. Before making any public announcement, Nia texted three friends: "Yo, y'all, telescope night is gonna be wild. Bring a jacket, 'cause it's chilly." Her friend Leo replied, "I'm in! Can my little brother come?" The friends already knew Nia and the club, so the quick messages needed no greeting or long explanation. Nia still had to write to Principal Ortiz about using the school courtyard. She opened a blank email and pictured someone reading it between meetings.

2. Her email began, "Dear Principal Ortiz, Our science club requests permission to use the courtyard on Friday at 7 p.m. for a telescope night. Families may attend, and club members will supervise the equipment. Please let us know whether the courtyard is available. Sincerely, Nia." Nia nearly typed, "We wanna use the courtyard," but stopped. She wanted her request to be clear to a busy principal who might forward it to other staff members. Leo checked the date and time before she sent the email.

3. On Friday, Nia faced families gathered by the courtyard gate. She spoke into a microphone: "Hey, everyone! Come on in, grab a sky map, and wait for a club member before touching a telescope." Several younger children waved their maps while adults followed the club members toward the equipment. Later, Nia imagined giving the same directions to visiting astronomers at a formal school reception. She wrote a second opening on a note card: "Good evening, guests. Please collect a sky map and ask a club member for help with the telescopes."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In Nia's text, what do “gonna” and “'cause” mean? Rewrite “Bring a jacket, 'cause it's chilly” for a formal notice.

2. Would “We wanna use the courtyard” fit Nia's email to Principal Ortiz? Explain your choice and replace “wanna” with standard English.

3. Why does “Hey, everyone! Come on in” fit Nia's spoken directions to families better than her email to the principal? Use both audiences in your answer.

4. Compare Nia's two spoken openings. Which fits the visiting astronomers at a formal reception, and which fits the families at the gate? Explain one wording choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your class is planning a used-book exchange. Write a two-sentence message to a close friend and a two-sentence email asking the principal for permission to hold the same event. Keep the event details consistent, but change your wording to fit each audience.

ANSWER KEY

Words for the Moment

GRADE 6 · 6.L.3.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two casual phrases in Nia's text and gate speech, and circle two formal phrases in her email and reception greeting. Write 1 beside each phrase meant for friends or families and 2 beside each phrase meant for school leaders or visiting guests. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In Nia's text, what do "gonna" and "'cause" mean? Rewrite "Bring a jacket, 'cause it's chilly" for a formal notice.	**"Gonna" means "going to," and "'cause" means "because." Formal notice: "Bring a jacket because it will be chilly."**
2	Would "We wanna use the courtyard" fit Nia's email to Principal Ortiz? Explain your choice and replace "wanna" with standard English.	**No. An email requesting permission from the principal calls for more formal wording. "We want to use the courtyard."**
3	Why does "Hey, everyone! Come on in" fit Nia's spoken directions to families better than her email to the principal? Use both audiences in your answer.	**The friendly greeting welcomes families at the gate, but a request to the principal needs a more formal greeting and tone.**
4	Compare Nia's two spoken openings. Which fits the visiting astronomers at a formal reception, and which fits the families at the gate? Explain one wording choice.	**"Good evening, guests" fits the formal reception, while "Hey, everyone" fits the families at the gate. "Good evening" sounds more formal than "Hey."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Friend: Hey, our class is planning a used-book exchange Tuesday at lunch. Got a book you want to trade?
Principal: Dear Principal Chen, our class would like to hold a used-book exchange on Tuesday at lunch. Please let us know if we may use the library.

Accept different phrase choices in the marking task when students match them to the intended audience. Casual forms can be appropriate for friends or a welcoming speech; they are not automatically wrong.