Talk the Right Way

Choose formal or informal English for each situation.

2.LU "The student will use conventions of Standard English when speaking and writing, differentiating between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is more appropriate..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FORMAL ENGLISH

Use formal English when you speak or write to an adult you do not know well or in an important message. Choose polite, complete words.

Greetings, Judge Patel. Would your office accept our invitation?

INFORMAL ENGLISH

Use informal English when you talk with friends or family. You may use casual words.

Yo, cousin! This puzzle rocks!

1 SORT

8 items

Circle FORMAL or INFORMAL for each item, then pick two items and tell how you knew.

1. Good afternoon, Principal Ortiz. FORMAL INFORMAL

2. Wanna build a fort? FORMAL INFORMAL

3. Yep, that is awesome! FORMAL INFORMAL

4. Dear Mr. Green, Please send the field-trip form. FORMAL INFORMAL

5. I am writing to ask about art club. FORMAL INFORMAL

6. Gotta run. See ya! FORMAL INFORMAL

7. Thank you for meeting with me, Ms. Ray. FORMAL INFORMAL

8. Hey, check out my new bike! FORMAL INFORMAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new FORMAL example and one new INFORMAL example.

FORMAL _____

INFORMAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence message to your teacher about a missing book. Use formal English in both sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Talk the Right Way

GRADE 2 · 2.LU

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Good afternoon, Principal Ortiz.	**FORMAL**	This is a polite greeting for a principal.
2	Wanna build a fort?	**INFORMAL**	Wanna is a casual word used with friends or family.
3	Yep, that is awesome!	**INFORMAL**	Yep and awesome are casual words.
4	Dear Mr. Green, Please send the field-trip form.	**FORMAL**	This is a polite message to an adult.
5	I am writing to ask about art club.	**FORMAL**	This is a complete, polite sentence for an important message.
6	Gotta run. See ya!	**INFORMAL**	Gotta and see ya are casual expressions.
7	Thank you for meeting with me, Ms. Ray.	**FORMAL**	This is polite language for an adult.
8	Hey, check out my new bike!	**INFORMAL**	Hey and check out are casual words.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FORMAL**: Good evening, Coach Brown. May I speak with you?
- **INFORMAL**: Oops, I forgot my hat!

Challenge: Dear Ms. Stone, I cannot find my library book. May I look for it tomorrow?

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept student explanations that name polite, complete language for FORMAL items or casual words for INFORMAL items. For the challenge, check that both sentences use formal language and correct ending punctuation.