

Talk It Right

Match your words to the situation.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

FORMAL LANGUAGE

Use formal language when you speak or write to adults you do not know well, in school messages, or in other serious situations. Choose polite, complete words.

Dear Librarian, I would appreciate help finding a book about volcanoes.

INFORMAL LANGUAGE

Use informal language when you talk with friends or family in relaxed situations. Informal language may include casual words or shortened phrases.

Wow, that robot is so cool!

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which words or style clues helped you sort them.

1. Thank you for explaining the assignment.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

2. I am writing to ask about the science fair schedule.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

3. That was totally awesome!

FORMAL

INFORMAL

4. May I speak with you after class?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

5. Oops, I left my lunch at home!

FORMAL

INFORMAL

6. Yo, can you save me a seat?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

7. Could you please send the permission slip by Friday?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

8. Please accept my apology for arriving late.

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

Rewrite your informal example as a formal message to an adult, while keeping the same main idea.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Thank you for explaining the assignment.	FORMAL	Polite, complete wording fits a school or adult conversation.
2	I am writing to ask about the science fair schedule.	FORMAL	This is a complete, respectful request.
3	That was totally awesome!	INFORMAL	The casual phrase “totally awesome” fits relaxed talk with friends.
4	May I speak with you after class?	FORMAL	“May I” is a polite way to make a request.
5	Oops, I left my lunch at home!	INFORMAL	“Oops” is a casual interjection used in relaxed speech.
6	Yo, can you save me a seat?	INFORMAL	“Yo” is a casual greeting used with friends.
7	Could you please send the permission slip by Friday?	FORMAL	The sentence uses polite wording for a request.
8	Please accept my apology for arriving late.	FORMAL	This is a respectful, serious apology.

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:** Dear Coach Rivera, I would like to ask about the practice schedule.
- **INFORMAL:** Hey, can we practice later?

Challenge: Dear Coach Rivera, may we practice later?

For Part 2, students should identify clues such as polite wording, complete phrasing, casual greetings, slang, or interjections. Accept reasonable answers when the student accurately connects a language choice to a formal or informal situation.