

*Recognising Formal and
Informal Language.*

Starter:

Suggest some synonyms for the words below:

| Friend |
|--------|
| |
| |
| |

| Holiday |
|---------|
| |
| |
| |

| Food |
|------|
| |
| |
| |

| Money |
|-------|
| |
| |
| |

| Man |
|-----|
| |
| |
| |

| Woman |
|-------|
| |
| |
| |

| Children |
|----------|
| |
| |
| |

Starter: Answers

Suggest some synonyms for the words below:

Various answers, for example:

| Friend |
|---------|
| mate |
| pal |
| comrade |

| Holiday |
|-----------|
| vacation |
| trip |
| excursion |

| Food |
|------------|
| scraps |
| provisions |
| fodder |

| Money |
|----------|
| cash |
| wonga |
| currency |

| Man |
|-----------|
| bloke |
| gentleman |
| fella |

| Woman |
|--------|
| lady |
| female |
| girl |

| Children |
|----------|
| kids |
| sprogs |
| infants |

Formal

We use formal language when:

- Talking/writing to someone we don't know;
- Writing non-fiction such as instructions, explanations or reports;
- Writing formal letters.



Informal

We use informal language when:

- Talking/writing to someone we know well;
- Writing letters to friends and close family;
- Writing emails and texts to people we know.



Formal Letter



Dear sir or madam,

I am writing to inform you that I had a most enjoyable experience at your wonderful leisure establishment.

I and my family enjoyed magnificent refreshments. Indeed, the cuisine was heavenlyk

Informal Letter

Hi Laura,



I had a great time coming to stay with you last weekend. It was really cool meeting your family and awesome bunny rabbits.

That pasta we had a A-MAZE-ING! Could you get your mum to send me the recipe? That would be SO wickedk

Read the sentence below and decide if it is formal or informal.

Mother disliked it when we were boisterous, as she said we were a hindrance to her.

Underline the words that influenced your decision.

Read the sentence below and decide if it is formal or informal.

Mother disliked it when we were boisterous, as she said we were a hindrance to her.

Underline the words that influenced your decision.

The sentence is formal

Circle the words in the following sentence you would not use if you were texting a good friend.

The television production I observed last night was superb and I believed the cast to be incredibly talented.

Circle the words in the following sentence you would not use if you were texting a good friend.

The **television production** I **observed** last night was **superb** and I **believed** the cast to be **incredibly talented**.

Sort the vocabulary according to the situation.

Letter from
the police

Phone call to
friend

Who is it?

to have the
opportunity

kitted up

equipped

reveal your
identity

What's up?

Is something
troubling you?

existence

to have a shot at
it

Sort the vocabulary according to the situation.

Letter from
the police

existence

equipped

reveal your
identity

Is something
troubling you?

to occupy

Phone call to
friend

Who is it?

to have a shot
at it

What's up?

kitted up

Look at this piece of writing. Is it formal or informal?

According to the government, it is recommended that individuals are conscious about their diet and exercise habits.

Explain how you know.

It is formal/informal because

Look at this piece of writing. Is it formal or informal?

According to the government, it is recommended that individuals are conscious about their diet and exercise habits.

Explain how you know.

I know that it is written in a formal tone because it uses formal language such as 'according to the government, it is recommended' instead of 'the government says you should' instead of 'been to' and 'continue' instead of 'carry on'.

Here is an extract from a weather forecast. Underline the parts that you think are too informal.

The white stuff has hit the UK this week and Wednesday is gonna be freezing, with temperatures nosediving to minus two degrees.

Edit the extract by writing suggestions for the parts you have underlined.

Here is an extract from a weather forecast. Underline the parts that you think are too informal.

The white stuff has hit the UK this week and Wednesday is gonna be freezing, with temperatures nosediving to minus two degrees.

Edit the extract by writing suggestions for the parts you have underlined.

Various edited versions which include formal language, for example:
Snow has fallen on the UK this week and Wednesday is predicted to be the coldest day, with temperatures falling to minus two degrees.

James says that Anne's writing is too informal to send to her bank.

Dear Bank Manager,
I'm pretty bad with cash so I've run out (again) and wondered if you
might give us some more until pay day.
Ta,
Anne Johnson

Do you agree? Explain how you know.

James is correct/incorrect because

James says that Anne's writing is too informal to send to her bank.

Dear Bank Manager,

I'm pretty bad with cash so I've run out (again) and wondered if you might give us some more until pay day.

Ta,

Anne Johnson

Do you agree? Explain how you know.

James is correct because the letter includes contracted words (I'm, I've) and informal vocabulary e.g. pretty bad, cash, give us, ta etc.