

# What Are Formal and Informal Language?

Can you write definitions for 'formal' and 'informal' language?

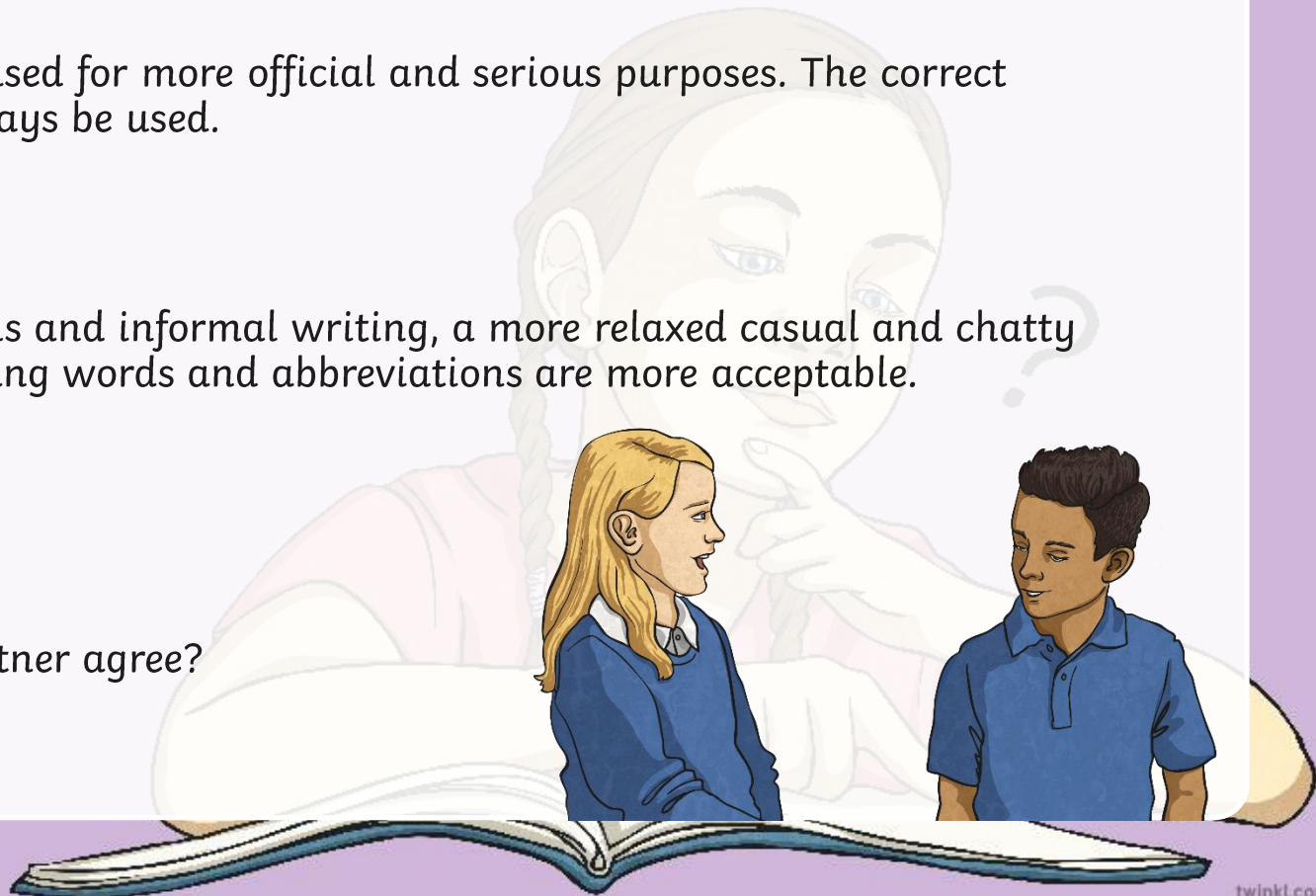
## Formal Language

**Formal** language is used for more official and serious purposes. The correct grammar should always be used.

## Informal Language

In **informal** situations and informal writing, a more relaxed casual and chatty style can be used. Slang words and abbreviations are more acceptable.

Do you and your partner agree?



# What Are Formal and Informal Language? Answers

formal

uses specific vocabulary for the subject

uses the correct grammar and punctuation

has a more serious tone

often uses complex sentence structures

informal

use more contractions and abbreviations (e.g. it's or TV)

is clear and to the point

has a more 'chatty' tone

uses clichés (e.g. raining cats and dogs)

uses text-style words (lol)

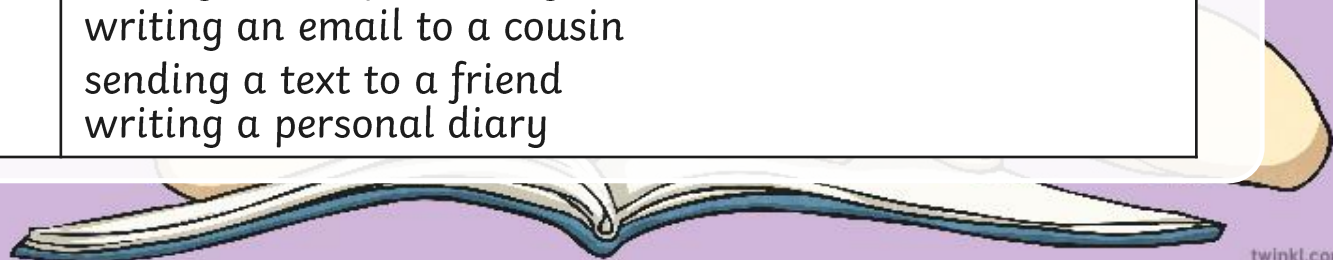


# Formal or Informal

Formal and informal language are more suited to different situations. Can you sort the following situations into the correct place in the table, according to which style of language would be more suitable?

presenting an award	talking to the headteacher	writing a letter of complaint
talking to friends	talking on the phone to gran	writing an email to a cousin
writing a report	sending a text to a friend	writing a personal diary

<b>Formal</b> Language	talking to the headteacher presenting an award writing a letter of complaint writing a report
<b>Informal</b> Language	talking to friends talking on the phone to gran writing an email to a cousin sending a text to a friend writing a personal diary



# Formal or Informal Vocabulary

Some vocabulary is more formal, whereas other is more informal in tone. Can you match these formal and informal words with the same meanings (synonyms)?

Formal

profession

injustice

sufficient

opportunity

sacrifice

immediately

Informal

now

chance

enough

job

give up

not fair



# Formal or Informal?

Read the following emails and decide whether they are **formal** or **informal**:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you of my upset when I opened the lucky dip bag I had recently purchased with my own pocket money.

I was disappointed to find that my favourite toy brand had been replaced with an inadequate copy, which even had pieces missing.

I shall expect to be fully compensated for the distress and inconvenience this experience has caused me and hope that you send a replacement promptly.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss F. James

**formal**

Hi Kerry,

You know the lucky dip bag I bought when we went into town yesterday? Well, you'll never believe what happened when I opened it – there was a broken, copy of the toy instead of the real thing!

I was so shocked and annoyed that I've emailed the company to tell them what I think.

I hope they send me a new one ASAP so I can complete the set.

Was your pack ok? I hope so.

C u soon,  
Frankie

**informal**



# Formal or Informal?

Read these sentences. What do you notice about them?

The teacher demands that you **be present** in PE.

Our Queen requests that you **attend** at 9am prompt.

If I **were** you, I would try harder in my lessons.

These sentences all use the **subjunctive verb form**, which makes sentences sound more formal.

