

FORMAL AND INFORMAL LANGUAGE

Language is about more than simply passing information from one person to another. It also shows us how we feel about the person we are writing or talking to and our relationship with them, for example whether they are a friend or someone in authority.

In *Chambers School Dictionary*, informal words are labelled *informal*. Formal words are labelled *formal*. Slang words are labelled *slang*. For more information see the **Language Study** panels in *Chambers School Dictionary* on **Formal and informal language** and **Slang**.

FORMAL/INFORMAL/SLANG?

Find the formal, informal, or slang word in the sentences below and then write it in the correct column of the table.

1. We're taking the kids to the zoo.
2. He avowed his change of faith.
3. He was eyeing the chicks in the club.
4. The film was wicked.
5. You're sad if you like reading that sort of thing.
6. I would be grateful if you could send me more details. Yours faithfully, Jane.
7. He abased himself before God.
8. He flamed everyone in the office.
9. An RAF chopper was hovering overhead.
10. He's really starting to bug me.

Formal	Informal	Slang

DICTIONARY WORKSHEET 6

Now rewrite the sentences so that they sound more neutral, and not formal or informal.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

THE RIGHT WORD FOR THE RIGHT SITUATION

Look at the words written in the cloud. Decide which ones you think would be appropriate to use in each of the situations below. Write them in the box.

skive slag off meet btw hi augment wicked (=very good)

immaculate clean DVD puke laud

abominable abolish lolly helicopter competition

- A letter applying for a job

- An e-mail to a friend

DICTIONARY WORKSHEET 6

- A conversation with a teacher
- A letter of complaint to a company
- A conversation with a friend
- A conversation with someone who does not speak English very well
- A job interview
- A conversation with an elderly person
- A text message to a friend

Now think of two slang or informal words of your own. Write a sentence using each of them. Then rewrite the sentences using more formal language.

1. _____

2. _____

1. _____

2. _____