

## Formal and Informal Language

Formal language is often used when you are writing something important (imagine you are writing or speaking to the Queen).

Informal language is used within a much more relaxed setting (think about the way in which you speak to your friends).

### Formal and Informal Language

Nearly there. This is the **last** page to learn in this section — hurrah. I've saved the best 'til last, so here's a thrilling page on **formal** and **informal language**. (It's not really thrilling — sorry.)

### **Formal and informal texts use different words**

You can usually tell the difference between a **formal** text and an **informal** one pretty easily.

1) **Formal** writing uses **more complicated** words:

*I **asked for** the salad.*

*I **requested** the salad.*

'Requested' is more **complicated** than 'asked for'

2) **Informal** writing sometimes uses **question tags** (see p.18):

*You're coming later, **aren't you?***

This is a **question tag**.

This sentence also uses **contractions** — 'you're' and 'aren't' (see p.33). **Formal** writing **doesn't** use these.

Draw lines to match each informal sentence with an equivalent formal sentence.

That's ace!

It is very cold outside.

He'll be fuming, won't he?

I am very happy.

It's very nippy outside!

That is great.

I'm really chuffed.

Do you think he will be angry?

Speech can be formal or informal too — just like writing.

## Formal and Informal Language

Have a go at these SATs style questions:

Which sentence is the most **formal**?

Tick **one**.

The way they played was terrible, wasn't it?

I wish they'd put a little more effort in today!

If only they'd tried a bit harder, they would've won.

The team were defeated due to mistakes that they made.

Which sentence is the most **formal**?

Tick **one**.

She suggested that her mother be present.

She really hopes to be ready on time.

Don't forget to lock the door!

If Johnny's late, we'll start without him.

Underline the sentence that is the most **formal** in the passage below.

Hope you can make it to my birthday party next week! It's going to be great! The venue is yet to be confirmed. I'm still checking out a couple of places.

Circle the most **formal** option in each box below to complete the invitation.

We would like to invite you to a

catch-up  
celebration  
get-together

to mark this

fab  
really cool  
momentous

occasion.

It will

start up  
commence  
kick off

at 5pm.

Write a formal letter to Mr Harrison (Headteacher) asking him for something that you think would improve the school - this could be longer break times, extra PE lessons, more sports equipment, anything you like. Use a formal tone throughout:

Lined writing area for the formal letter.