

Formal and Informal English

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

FORMAL English is the polite way we talk to teachers, principals, or people we do not know well. INFORMAL English is the relaxed way we talk to friends and family. We say *Hello.* to a teacher and *Hi, ya!* to a friend.

PRACTICE

Decide if each sentence is formal or informal, and pick the best one.

- Which greeting is FORMAL?
 - Hi, ya!
 - Hello, Mr. Lee.
 - Yo!
 - Hey there!
- Which sentence is INFORMAL?
 - May I please have some water?
 - Could you help me, please?
 - Gimme some juice!
 - Thank you for your time.
- You meet your school principal in the hallway. What should you say?
 - What's up?
 - Good morning, Principal Diaz.
 - Hey, dude.
 - Yo!
- Which sentence would you use with a CLOSE FRIEND at recess?
 - I would be delighted to play.
 - Wanna play tag?
 - Might I join your game?
 - It is a pleasure to see you.
- It is okay to say *Hi, ya!* to your best friend.

T / F



6. Which is the FORMAL way to say *I gotta go now*?
- A. I gotta bounce.
 - B. I need to leave now.
 - C. Later!
 - D. I'm outta here.
7. Write the FORMAL word for the informal word *kid*: _____
Answer: _____
8. When should you use FORMAL English?
- A. telling a joke to your brother
 - B. writing a thank-you note to your teacher
 - C. playing a game with friends
 - D. talking with your dog
9. Which sentence shows GOOD manners and FORMAL English?
- A. Give me that book.
 - B. Hand it over.
 - C. May I please borrow that book?
 - D. I want the book now.
10. A new teacher walks into your class. Write one FORMAL sentence to greet her.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 T F

- 6 A B C D
- 7
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10

Explanations

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1. B | Formal English uses a polite greeting and a name. The others are casual. |
| 2. C | Informal English is short and relaxed, the way we talk with friends. |
| 3. B | You use formal English with a principal. The others are too casual. |
| 4. B | Informal English fits friends. The others are too formal for the playground. |
| 5. T | Informal English is fine with friends and family. |
| 6. B | Formal English uses full words and a clear, polite tone. |
| 7. child | Formal English uses <i>child</i> in place of the casual word <i>kid</i> . |
| 8. B | We use formal English with teachers and people we want to show respect. |
| 9. C | Formal English uses <i>please</i> and asks instead of demanding. |
| 10. | Answer: Example: Good morning. It is nice to meet you. Accept any polite greeting that uses full words and a kind tone. |



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