

Spoken vs. Written English

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

Written English is usually **MORE FORMAL** than spoken English. In writing, we use complete sentences, full words (not slang), and correct punctuation. In speaking, we may use contractions and incomplete phrases.

PRACTICE

Decide which version is **BEST** for each situation.

- Which is **BETTER** for a school essay?
 - "Gotta go now."
 - "I need to leave now."
 - "gotta bounce."
 - "Bye y'all."
- Which is **BETTER** for a casual chat with a friend?
 - "I am unable to attend the gathering."
 - "I can't come to the party."
 - "With great regret, I shall decline."
 - "The invitation is not accepted."
- Which is the **FORMAL** written version of "*She's gonna run*"?
 - She's gonna run.
 - She is going to run.
 - She gunna run.
 - She's run.
- Which sentence is **BEST** for a thank-you note to your teacher?
 - Thx for the help!
 - Thank you so much for your help.
 - U rock!
 - Yo, thanks teach.



5. Which sentence sounds SPOKEN, not written?
 - A. I would like to attend the event.
 - B. Hey, wanna go to the show?
 - C. I am writing to ask a question.
 - D. Please respond by Friday.
6. Which is BETTER in a letter to the principal?
 - A. "What's up, principal?"
 - B. "Dear Principal Lee, I would like to share an idea."
 - C. "Hey there, listen up."
 - D. "yo, can we change recess?"
7. Which is a CONTRACTION often used in spoken English?
 - A. could not
 - B. couldn't
 - C. should have
 - D. would not
8. Which is BETTER for a research report?
 - A. "Stuff happens in space."
 - B. "Many events take place in outer space."
 - C. "Like, space is wild."
 - D. "Space stuff. End."
9. Which sentence shows GOOD written English?
 - A. I goes to the store.
 - B. I went to the store yesterday.
 - C. Me and him gone to the store.
 - D. We be at the store.
10. Rewrite this spoken sentence in FORMAL written English: *"Yeah, we wanna play outside, so we're gonna grab our coats."*



Answer Keys

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

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

Explanations

1. B	Formal writing uses complete words and clear meaning. The others are casual/slang.
2. B	Casual conversation uses simpler, contracted speech.
3. B	Write out the full words; avoid “gonna.”
4. B	Formal context = complete words and respectful tone.
5. B	Casual speech uses “hey,” “wanna,” and shorter phrases.
6. B	Formal letter uses a proper greeting and complete words.
7. B	Couldn't = could not. Contractions are common in speech and informal writing.
8. B	Formal writing uses precise, complete sentences.
9. B	Correct subject + verb tense. The others have grammar errors common in casual or nonstandard speech.
10.	Answer: Example: Yes, we want to play outside, so we are going to get our coats. Accept any rewrite that uses complete words and proper grammar.



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