

# 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."*

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## 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.	<b>Answer:</b> 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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