

# Adapting Speech to Context

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

Strong speakers ADAPT their language to the CONTEXT and TASK. FORMAL speech (presentations, interviews, letters to authorities) uses complete sentences, precise vocabulary, and no slang. INFORMAL speech (texts, group chats, friend-to-friend chats) uses contractions, casual phrases, and shorthand. Saying the same thing two ways - one formal, one informal - is a real skill.

## PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

### Three situations and matched versions

SITUATION A - At Career Day, Sam interviews a visiting engineer in front of the whole class. Sam says: VERSION 1 - 'Thank you for being here today. Could you describe one project from your career that you are especially proud of?' VERSION 2 - 'Yo, what was your coolest job, like ever?'

SITUATION B - Sam is texting a teammate about practice. Sam writes: VERSION 1 - 'Hey, practice got moved to 4:15 - meet me by the gym?' VERSION 2 - 'I would like to inform you that the scheduled practice has been rescheduled to 4:15 p.m. Kindly meet me adjacent to the gymnasium entrance.'

SITUATION C - Sam is giving a 2-minute class presentation about a local park. Sam says: VERSION 1 - 'Soo basically, like, the park is super old and stuff, you know?' VERSION 2 - 'Founded in 1898, Lincoln Park is one of the oldest public spaces in our city, covering more than thirty acres along the river.'

## PART 2 — PRACTICE

Read each pair of versions or each situation and answer the items. The same student, Sam, is the speaker in every situation.

- For SITUATION A (Career Day interview), which version BEST matches the context?
  - Version 2 (Yo, what was your coolest job, like ever?), because a casual tone makes the engineer comfortable.
  - Version 1 (Thank you for being here today. Could you describe one project from your career...?), because the interview is a FORMAL setting with an adult guest in front of the class.
  - Neither version works for this setting.
  - Both versions are equally appropriate.



2. For SITUATION B (texting a teammate), which version BEST matches the context?
  - A. Version 2 (I would like to inform you that the scheduled practice has been rescheduled to 4:15 p.m...), because formal is always safer.
  - B. Version 1 (Hey, practice got moved to 4:15 - meet me by the gym?), because a quick text between teammates is INFORMAL by nature.
  - C. Neither version works for a text.
  - D. Both versions sound exactly the same.
3. For SITUATION C (2-minute class presentation), which version BEST matches the context?
  - A. Version 1 (Soo basically, like, the park is super old and stuff, you know?), because students should sound natural.
  - B. Version 2 (Founded in 1898, Lincoln Park is one of the oldest public spaces in our city, covering more than thirty acres along the river.), because a class presentation is a SEMI-FORMAL academic task that calls for precise, complete sentences.
  - C. Neither version works for a presentation.
  - D. Both versions are equally professional.
4. Sam wants to ASK A FAVOR from her principal in an EMAIL. Which opening BEST fits the audience and task?
  - A. Yo Mr. P - real quick favor for the class!
  - B. Hey there!! Need a thing - thx!!! :)
  - C. Hi Mr. P I want a favor.
  - D. Dear Principal Ortiz, I am writing to request your permission for the sixth-grade Earth Day cleanup to be held in the courtyard during third period on April 22.
5. Sam is on the phone with her grandparent. Which sentence BEST fits the context?
  - A. Yo gramps got 2 secs?
  - B. Hi Grandma, I just wanted to tell you about my book report - I got the highest grade in the class today.
  - C. Greetings, esteemed maternal grandparent. I am pleased to relay academic developments.
  - D. Whatever - bye.
6. Which sentence is in the WRONG REGISTER for its setting? (Pick the obvious mismatch.)
  - A. At a Career Day interview: *Thank you for visiting our class today.*
  - B. At a sleepover, to a friend: *Hey, can you grab the popcorn off the counter?*
  - C. In a text to a teammate about practice: *Greetings, esteemed teammate. Pursuant to the schedule alteration, kindly attend at 4:15.*
  - D. In a class presentation: *Lincoln Park covers more than thirty acres along the river.*



7. Sam wrote a presentation line and a text line about the same fact. Which pair correctly uses BOTH formal AND informal registers?
- A. Presentation: *So like, the park got built in 1898 or whatever.* // Text to a friend: *Lincoln Park, founded in 1898, is one of our city's oldest public spaces.*
  - B. Presentation: *Lincoln Park, founded in 1898, is one of our city's oldest public spaces.* // Text to a friend: *Btw, the park's been around since like 1898 - kinda wild.*
  - C. Presentation: *Hey check it out, that park is, like, super old.* // Text to a friend: *It is my distinct honor to relay that Lincoln Park has stood since 1898.*
  - D. Presentation: *1898 park old yes.* // Text to a friend: *1898 park old yes.*
8. Which sentence is the BEST single sentence to use when CLOSING a formal class presentation?
- A. Anyway, that's about it I guess.
  - B. Peace out, bye.
  - C. In short, Lincoln Park's 125-year history makes it one of our city's most valuable public spaces - and one worth visiting this spring.
  - D. K thx bye.
9. Pick ONE of these factual statements and write it in TWO forms: (1) formal - for a class presentation, and (2) informal - for a text to a friend. Statement options: 'Our class is going to the planetarium next Friday.' OR 'The new library opens at 8 a.m. on Saturdays.'

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10. Read this casual sentence: *So like the field trip got moved to Thursday cuz of weather and stuff.* Rewrite it for a FORMAL announcement that will be read over the school intercom.

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# Answer Keys

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| Explanations |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>1. B</b>  | Career Day interviews are formal academic settings with an adult guest. Version 1 uses a polite greeting and a complete, professional question. A is wrong ( <i>Yo</i> and <i>coolest job</i> are too casual). C is wrong (Version 1 fits well). D ignores the obvious tone difference.  |
| <b>2. B</b>  | Texts between teammates are short, friendly, and informal. Version 1 fits that context. A overuses formality where it doesn't belong - the teammate would find Version 2 stiff and odd. C is wrong (Version 1 works perfectly). D ignores the obvious tone difference.   |
| <b>3. B</b>  | Class presentations are graded academic tasks that call for precise vocabulary and complete sentences. Version 2 fits. A is wrong (filler words and slang weaken the presentation). C is wrong (Version 2 works well). D ignores the obvious tone difference.  |
| <b>4. D</b>  | D opens with a formal greeting, names the request specifically, and gives the principal the information needed to consider it - exactly right for an email to an authority. A is too casual. B is even more casual AND vague. C is brief but flat and demanding.   |
| <b>5. B</b>  | B is warm, polite, and gives the grandparent the news in a clear, friendly way - perfect for a family call. A is too casual and abrupt. C is comically over-formal for a family conversation. D is rude and ends the call.   |
| <b>6. C</b>  | C is comically over-formal for a quick text. A, B, and D all match their settings: formal at Career Day, casual at a sleepover, complete sentence in a presentation. C is the obvious mismatch.  |
| <b>7. B</b>  | B uses a complete formal sentence for the presentation AND a casual, abbreviated sentence for the text - each fitting its setting. A swaps the registers. C swaps the registers and exaggerates. D collapses both into notes that don't fit either setting.  |
| <b>8. C</b>  | C uses a strong transition ( <i>In short</i> ), restates the topic's importance, and ends with a clear takeaway - everything a formal closing should do. A trails off. B and D are casual sign-offs that don't belong in a presentation.   |
| <b>9.</b>    | <b>Answer:</b> Examples for the planetarium statement: FORMAL - Next Friday, our class will visit the city planetarium to study constellations and orbital motion. INFORMAL - Yo, planetarium trip Friday! Can't wait. Examples for the library statement: FORMAL - The newly renovated public library will open at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings, providing earlier access for community members. INFORMAL - Hey, the new library opens at 8 on Saturdays now - wanna go this weekend?<br>Accept any answer that gives (a) ONE clearly FORMAL version (complete sentence, no slang, precise vocabulary) and (b) ONE clearly INFORMAL version (contractions, casual phrasing, friendly tone) of the SAME statement. NOT acceptable: two versions that sound the same, two formal versions, two informal versions, or a version that gets the facts wrong. |



10.

**Answer:** Examples: (1) Attention, students: due to the weather forecast, this week's sixth-grade field trip has been rescheduled to Thursday. (2) Please be aware that the sixth-grade field trip, originally scheduled for earlier this week, has been moved to Thursday because of the weather. (3) The sixth-grade field trip has been postponed to Thursday due to inclement weather - please plan accordingly.

Accept any rewrite that (a) keeps the same MEANING (field trip moved to Thursday because of weather), (b) removes ALL informal markers (*so like, cuz, and stuff*), and (c) reads as a complete, formal-sounding sentence appropriate for a school announcement. NOT acceptable: a rewrite that keeps slang or fillers, a rewrite that changes the facts (a different day, a different reason), or a rewrite that adds rude or demanding tone.



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