

Adapting Speech to Context

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Strong Grade 7 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, conversations with friends) uses contractions, casual phrases, and shorthand. Saying the same thing two ways - one formal, one informal - is a real Grade 7 skill, and matching the register to the audience is just as important as the content.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Three situations and matched versions

SITUATION A - At Career Day, Sam interviews a visiting civil engineer in front of the whole class. Sam says: VERSION 1 - 'Thank you for joining us today. Could you describe one project from your career that you found especially challenging, and how your team solved it?' VERSION 2 - 'Yo, what was your hardest job, like ever, and how'd you fix it?'

SITUATION B - Sam is texting a teammate about a schedule change. Sam writes: VERSION 1 - 'Hey, practice got moved to 4:15 - meet me by the gym?' VERSION 2 - 'I am writing 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 3-minute class presentation on a historical figure. Sam says: VERSION 1 - 'Sooo basically Harriet Tubman was, like, super brave and stuff, you know?' VERSION 2 - 'Born around 1822 in Maryland, Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and then returned to the South at least 13 times, leading approximately 70 enslaved people to freedom along the Underground Railroad.'

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.



1. For SITUATION A (Career Day interview in front of the whole class), which version BEST matches the context?
 - A. Version 2 (*Yo, what was your hardest job, like ever, and how'd you fix it?*), because casual makes the engineer comfortable.
 - B. Version 1 (*Thank you for joining us today. Could you describe one project...?*), because Career Day is a FORMAL ACADEMIC setting with an adult guest in front of the class.
 - C. Neither version works for Career Day.
 - D. Both versions are equally appropriate.
2. For SITUATION B (texting a teammate), which version BEST matches the context?
 - A. Version 2 (*I am writing 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 (3-minute class presentation), which version BEST matches the context?
 - A. Version 1 (*Sooo basically Harriet Tubman was, like, super brave and stuff, you know?*), because students should sound natural.
 - B. Version 2 (*Born around 1822 in Maryland, Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and then returned to the South at least 13 times, leading approximately 70 enslaved people to freedom along the Underground Railroad.*), 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 Grade 7 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 Grandpa, I just wanted to tell you about my history project - I got the highest grade in the class today.
 - C. Greetings, esteemed paternal 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: *Harriet Tubman led approximately 70 enslaved people to freedom along the Underground Railroad.*
7. Sam wrote a presentation line and a text line about the same historical fact. Which pair correctly uses BOTH formal AND informal registers?
- A. Presentation: *So like Tubman, like, freed people on the railroad or whatever.* // Text to a friend: *Harriet Tubman led approximately 70 enslaved people to freedom along the Underground Railroad.*
 - B. Presentation: *Harriet Tubman led approximately 70 enslaved people to freedom along the Underground Railroad.* // Text to a friend: *Btw, Tubman freed like 70 ppl through the Underground Railroad - kinda incredible.*
 - C. Presentation: *Hey check it out, Tubman was, like, super cool I guess.* // Text to a friend: *It is my distinct honor to relay that Harriet Tubman led approximately 70 enslaved people to freedom.*
 - D. Presentation: *Tubman freedom 70 yes.* // Text to a friend: *Tubman freedom 70 yes.*
8. Which sentence is the BEST single sentence to use when CLOSING a formal class presentation?
- A. Anyway, that's pretty much it I guess.
 - B. Peace out, bye.
 - C. In short, Harriet Tubman's 13 return trips and 70 rescues make her one of the Underground Railroad's most influential conductors - and one whose courage continues to shape how Americans understand that period today.
 - D. K thx bye.
9. Read this casual sentence: *So like the field trip got moved to Thursday cuz of weather and stuff.* Which is the BEST REWRITE for a formal announcement read over the school intercom?
- A. So like the field trip got moved to Thursday cuz of weather and stuff, but in a more formal way.
 - B. Attention, Grade 7 students: due to the weather forecast, this week's field trip has been rescheduled to Thursday. Please report to homeroom at the regular time.
 - C. I personally feel pretty bad that the field trip got moved cuz of the weather, you know?
 - D. Field trip Thursday weather yes.
10. Sam wrote an INFORMAL text to a teammate: *practice got bumped to 4:15 - same field?* Sam now needs to send the SAME message as a FORMAL EMAIL to the team's parent volunteer coordinator. Which email line BEST converts the register?
- A. yo parents, practice 4:15 same field thx
 - B. Dear Ms. Alvarez, this email is to inform you that today's Grade 7 soccer practice has been rescheduled to 4:15 p.m. at the same field as previously announced; please share with the volunteer parents.
 - C. Hey Ms. Alvarez!! practice got bumped to 4:15 - same field?!! thx so much!!!
 - D. Practice 4:15 yes field same yes thanks email.



Answer Keys

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| <p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> | <p>6 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> |
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| Explanations | |
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| 1. B | Career Day interviews are formal academic settings with an adult guest. Version 1 uses a polite greeting and a complete, professional, two-part question. A is wrong (<i>Yo</i> and <i>hardest job, like ever</i> are too casual). C is wrong (Version 1 fits well). D ignores the obvious tone difference. |
| 2. 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. |
| 3. B | Class presentations are graded academic tasks that call for precise vocabulary, dates, 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. |
| 4. D | 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 a school authority. A is too casual. B is even more casual AND vague. C is brief but flat and demanding. |
| 5. 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. |
| 6. C | 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. |
| 7. 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. |
| 8. C | C uses a strong transition (<i>In short</i>), restates the key data, and ends with a clear takeaway about the topic's lasting significance - everything a formal closing should do. A trails off. B and D are casual sign-offs that don't belong in a presentation. |
| 9. B | B keeps the same MEANING (field trip moved to Thursday because of weather), removes all informal markers, and uses a clear, complete sentence appropriate for an announcement. A keeps the slang. C adds personal opinion. D collapses into notes. |
| 10. B | B keeps the same MEANING (practice moved to 4:15, same field) but adapts to a formal email register: greeting, complete sentence, polite request to share. A is text register, not email. C is informal punctuation and tone. D collapses into notes. |




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