

Levels of Formality

Directions for the teacher:

Task A. Sort the statements into formal and informal English.

Online class: Screenshare and use the first handout. As you sort the statements as a class, also try to make pairs. Refer to the in-person version for the answers.

In-person: Copy and cut out the cards on the second handout. You can make one set for each pair or small group. Confirm the answers as a class.

Task B. Brainstorming.

Students can work in pairs or small groups to come up with at least one variation for each item.

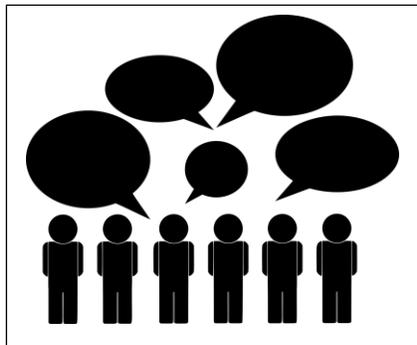
Compare and discuss ideas as a class. **Suggestions:**

Formal	Informal
How exactly did this happen?	How on earth did this happen?
We need to get answers. Can anyone offer an explanation?	Somebody better start explaining.
Is anyone going to take responsibility for this?	Who's gonna own up to this?
It is only a matter of time before others learn about this. We cannot prevent it.	Word is going to get out. We can't keep this quiet.
What you are proposing is unorthodox and unprecedented.	What you're suggesting is crazy. Nobody's ever done that.
I vote in favor of this.	I say we go for it. Let's do it!

Task C. Conversation and role play.

Back in the pairs or small groups, students can write and then act out a short conversation using at least two statements from Task A and two statements from Task B.

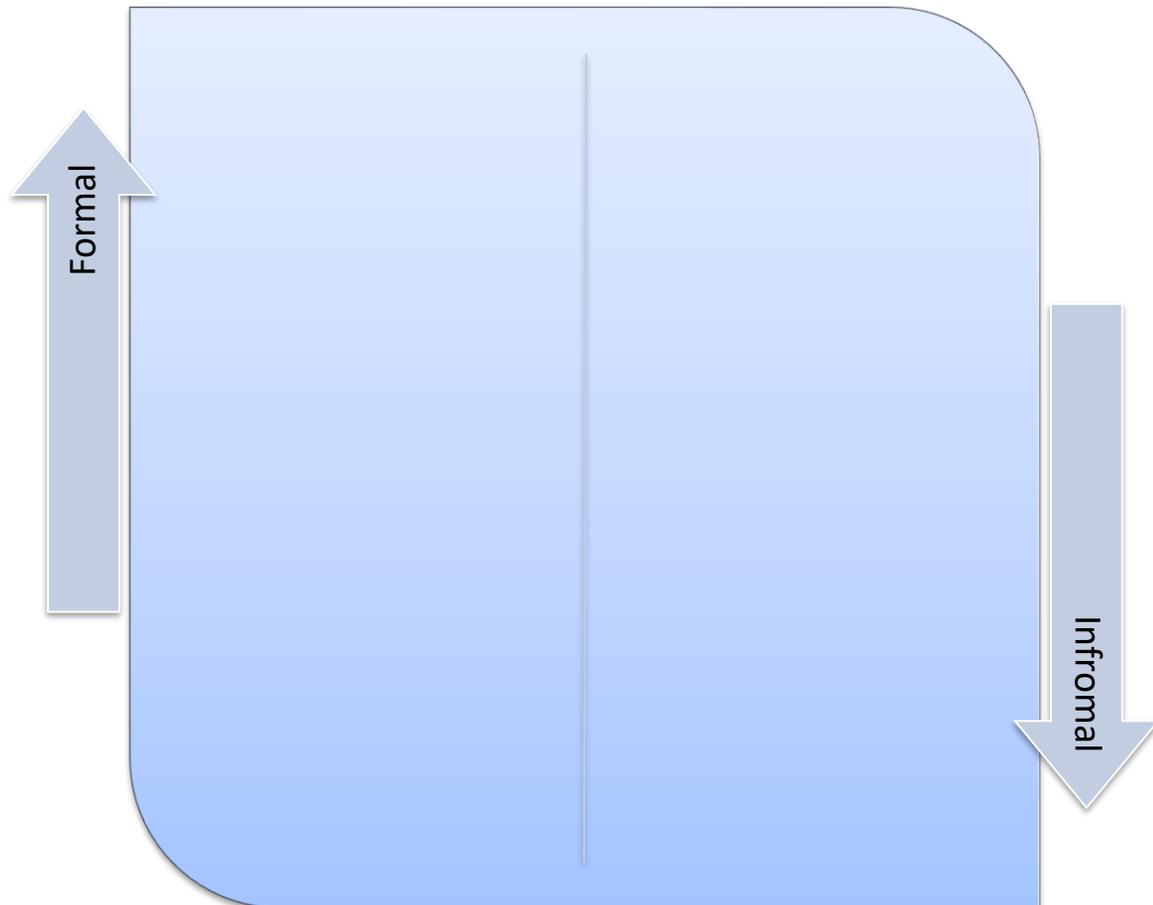
Encourage the class to evaluate each conversation. (1) Was the tone consistent? (2) Was it appropriate?



Photos retrieved from <https://pixabay.com/>

Levels of Formality

Task A. Sort the statements into formal and informal English.



Trust me. Okay?
There is something I wish to say.
Hey! Listen up.
I am asking you to place your trust in me.
I had no clue about that. Honest.
We made a very unfortunately mistake.
If anyone would like to offer
 a suggestion, please do.
You just have to believe it'll all work out
 in the end.

I've got something to say
We really messed up big time. It's horrible.
I was truly not aware of the situation.
Suggestions? Anyone? I'm all ears.
The situation requires you to have faith.
May I have your attention, please?
The situations requires you to have faith. The
 problem will be solved.

Levels of Formality

Task A. Sort the statements into formal and informal English.

Formal	Informal
May I have your attention, please?	Hey! Listen up.
There is something I wish to say.	I've got something to say.
I truly was not aware of the situation.	I had no clue about that. Honest.
We made a very unfortunate mistake.	We really messed up big time. It's horrible!
I am asking you to place your trust in me.	Trust me. Okay?
If anyone would like to offer a suggestion, please do.	Suggestions? Anyone? I'm all ears.
The situation requires you to have faith. The problem will be solved.	You just have to believe it'll all work out in the end.

Levels of Formality

Task B. Suggest a more or less informal variation.

Formal	Informal
How exactly did this happen?	
	Somebody better start explaining.
Is anyone going to take responsibility for this?	
	Word is going to get out. We can't keep this quiet.
What you are proposing is unorthodox and unprecedented.	
	I say we go for it. Let's do it!