



Vocabulary

Grade 5 Unit 3: The Reformation: When Books Changed the World



Formal & Informal Language

Introduction: Formal & Informal Language



Today we are going to learn about **formal** and **informal** language.

Informal language is how we speak in a conversation with someone we know.

Informal language includes contractions and personal pronouns. It uses shorter, incomplete sentences and smaller words.

Formal language is how we speak when we want to show respect or make a good impression.

Formal language does not include contractions or personal pronouns. It usually uses longer sentences and larger words.

We use formal language in more formal or serious settings:

At work or school

In a report or paper

When talking with someone important

We use informal language in more informal or casual settings:

At home

At the park or playground

When talking with someone we know

Let's look at this example from our unit about the Reformation:

**“Excellent! Let’s meet your fellow workers,”
Lafarge replied.**

This is an example of informal language.

It was spoken in an informal setting (an introduction of an apprentice) and uses incomplete sentences.

A more formal way to make this statement might be:

“That is wonderful. Now, I would like to introduce you to your colleagues.”

Let's Try It Together!



Look at this example from the unit:

**“My typesetter, Henri. The best in the business,”
Lafarge exclaimed loudly.**

Turn to your partner and discuss whether you think this is an example of formal or informal language. How do you know?

Put your thumb up if you think this is an example of formal language.

Put your thumb down if you think this is an example of informal language.

Now you try one with a partner. Look at this example:

**“I will work extremely hard, Monsieur,”
Jacques said, “at whatever task you give to me.”**

Turn to your partner and discuss whether this uses formal or informal language. How would you restate it the other way?

Put your thumb up if you think this is an example of formal language.

Put your thumb down if you think this is an example of informal language.

Did you remember the steps?

1. Determine if the language is formal or informal.

formal

2. How do you know?

There are no contractions, it uses larger words, and it was spoken to someone important

3. Restate the quote the other way.

"Sure, dude, whatever you say."

Now try one by yourself!



Look at this example:

“Out of the way, boy,” the typesetter yelled.

Write formal if you think this is an example of formal language.

Write informal if you think this is an example of informal language.

Then, write the statement the other way.

Answer



informal

**Please excuse me young man;
I would appreciate if you could move over here.**