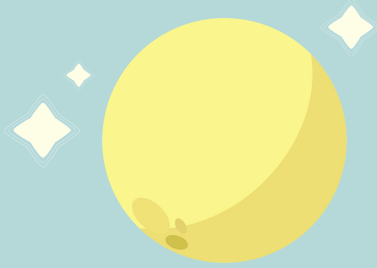


Vocabulary

Grade 4 Unit 1, Part 1: Empires in the Middle Ages, Part 1



Formal & Informal Language

Introduction: Formal & Informal Language



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

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.

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

Informal language includes contractions and personal pronouns. It uses shorter sentences and smaller 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 Middle Ages:

During a royal dinner, with many nobles in attendance, Henry uttered the words, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest?"

This is an example of formal language.

It was spoken in a formal setting (during a royal dinner) to many nobles (people whom Henry respects).

A more informal way to make this statement might be:

“Can someone get this guy out of here?”

Let's Try It Together!



Look at this example from the unit:

"Your majesty, I do not understand," said the poor bewildered attendant.

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 cannot endure this humiliation for much longer."

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 and it uses larger words.

3. Restate the quote the other way.

"I can't stand it anymore."

Now try one by yourself!



Look at this example:

**Almost the whole population of the town
perished.**

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



formal

Everybody died