

Nuance in Formal vs Informal English Worksheet

Advanced C1-C2 · Side A

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 20

Exercise A · Rewrite in formal register (Q1-5)

Transform each informal sentence.

1. I wanna know why the project's behind.
-> _____
2. The boss said we gotta cut costs ASAP.
-> _____
3. She's loads better at maths than him.
-> _____
4. We're gonna look into it.
-> _____
5. Thanks for your help - it was great.
-> _____

Exercise B · True or False (Q6-10)

Write T (true) or F (false).

6. Contractions are avoided in formal English.
Answer: _____
7. Phrasal verbs are generally more formal than single-word equivalents.
Answer: _____
8. Hedging language (e.g. 'it would appear') is a feature of formal writing.
Answer: _____
9. First-person pronouns (I, we) are always avoided in formal writing.
Answer: _____
10. Nominalisation (turning verbs into nouns) is a feature of formal style.
Answer: _____

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Worksheet - Side B

Advanced C1-C2

Exercise C · Rewrite formally (Q11-14)

Upgrade each sentence to C1-C2 formal register.

11. They looked into the problem.

-> _____

12. The idea didn't work.

-> _____

13. A lot of people think this is wrong.

-> _____

14. We need to sort this out quickly.

-> _____

Exercise D · Multiple choice (Q15-17)

Choose the most appropriate word for formal academic writing.

15. The findings ___ that further research is needed.

(a) show (b) suggest (c) say

16. The policy had ___ consequences for the economy.

(a) big (b) significant (c) loads of

17. She ___ her concerns to the committee.

(a) told (b) raised (c) said

Exercise E · Register transformation (Q18-20)

Rewrite each sentence in the opposite register.

18. 'The data corroborates the hypothesis.' (informal) ->

-> _____

19. 'I'm not sure it'll work out.' (formal) ->

-> _____

20. Write one sentence showing the difference between 'get' and 'obtain' ->

-> _____

Answer Sheet - Nuance in Formal vs Informal English Worksheet

For teacher / self-marking use only

Exercise A - Rewrite in formal register

Q1-5

1. I would like to understand why the project has fallen behind schedule.
2. The manager indicated that costs must be reduced as soon as possible.
3. She demonstrates considerably greater proficiency in mathematics.
4. We will investigate the matter.
5. I am grateful for your assistance, which was invaluable.

Exercise B - True or False

Q6-10

6. T
7. F
8. T
9. F
10. T

Exercise C - Rewrite formally

Q11-14

11. They investigated / examined the issue.
12. The proposal proved unsuccessful / ineffective.
13. A significant proportion of people consider this to be erroneous.
14. It is imperative that this matter be resolved promptly.

Exercise D - Multiple choice

Q15-17

15. suggest
16. significant
17. raised

Exercise E - Register transformation

Q18-20

18. (own answer)
19. (own answer)
20. (own answer)

Total: 20 points | Side A: Q1-10 | Side B: Q11-20