

Informal Speech

Informal speech is speech that is casual and relaxed, like conversations with friends. Informal speech may include slang, contractions and colloquial phrases.

What is the difference between informal and formal speech?

Informal speech differs from Standard English, favouring a more relaxed tone and deviation from the typical rules of grammar. You may hear informal speech between friends, families, peers and even strangers. It is commonly heard in everyday life.

Informal speech may include slang words such as 'lit', 'shook' and 'squad'. People speaking informally will typically use contractions to save time, choosing to say 'haven't' rather than 'have not'.

For instance:

"Cheers for ringing, Dude. Feels like I haven't seen you in ages! Have you seen Jono and Mark lately?"

Formal speech is more likely to adhere to the rules of Standard English. Formal speech is most commonly used in the workplace, places of learning such as universities or events with a serious tone.

Formal speech rarely includes slang words. There will be fewer contractions used and the speaker is likely to follow a proper sentence structure.

For instance:

"I'm so pleased to be here today. Thank you so much for your invitation and your kind words regarding my recent promotion. I feel truly grateful to be surrounded by such wonderful, distinguished individuals tonight."

More examples of Formal and Informal Speech

Formal:

"It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends" - *Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Informal:

"From now on, I don't care if my tea leaves spell, 'Die, Ron, die,' I'm chucking them in the bin where they belong." - *Ronald Weasley, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Formal:

"Our courts have our faults, as does any human institution, but in this country, our courts are the great levelers, and in our courts, all men are created equal." - *Atticus Finch, To Kill a Mockingbird*

Informal:

"Real courage is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what." - *Atticus Finch, To Kill a Mockingbird*