



Email formality review

Without looking below, listen to your teacher and hold up the Formal or Informal card depending on what you hear.

Label the sections below with F for Formal or I for Informal.

I look forward to hearing from you soon
I regret to inform you that...
I would be very pleased to meet on Thursday, if that is convenient with you.
If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me
Please accept my sincerest apologies (for...)

If you need to know anything else, just drop me a line.
It was great to hear from you.
Some more information about... would be a great help.
Sorry it took me so long to get back to you
Take care

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause/ have caused)
With reference to your email last week,...
Would you by any chance be available to meet on Thursday?
You can rest assured that this will not happen again.
Yours faithfully
Yours sincerely/ Sincerely/ Sincerely yours

Check this out!
Please do it asap.
Help!
I can't make it then.
I expect action now
I need it right away.
I want you to...
It wasn't our fault

I'm too busy.
I'm waiting impatiently for your reply/ Write soon!
Lots of love/ Love from/ With all my love/ Hugs and kisses/ XXX
Miss you!
Please let me know by tomorrow.
Send my love to John
Whassup?

Any feedback you can give me on this would be gratefully received.
Dear Mrs/ Ms/ Mrs/ Miss/ Dr Jameson/ Dear Sir or Madam/ Dear Sirs
I am very grateful for...
I am writing to you in connection with...
I hope you and your family are well.

Are you free on Wed?
BR
Hi Alex/ Hi
Bye for now/ See you (soon/ then)/ CU
Cheers
How are things?/ How's it going?

Have a look at the attachment for details.
Here's the info you asked for:
Hope that helps.
How about meeting on Thursday?
You're a lifesaver!/ You're a star!

Please find the schedule attached./ Please find attached my report.
Please give my regards to Mr Smith
Thank you for your letter of 17 March.
Thank you in advance.
To whom it may concern

If you need any further information, please do not have the slightest hesitation in contacting me at any time at all
I am very grateful to you for responding to my email so quickly.
We deeply regret any inconvenience we might have caused any of you in any way.
It was an honour to meet you yesterday
Thank you in advance for all and any help you are able to offer me on this matter. You have my eternal gratitude for helping me.
Could you possibly have a little look at the attached document, if it's not too much trouble?

After checking your answers, test each other in pairs.

What are the general differences between formal and informal emails?

Decide if each of the things below is a characteristic of formal or informal emails:

- Grammar (e.g. word order) unlike normal speech
- Similar to speech
- Avoid contractions (I'm, we've, etc)
- Using short forms (btw etc)
- Longer words and longer sentences
- No subject or no subject and no auxiliary verb
- Phrasal verbs like "get + back + to + me"
- Other idioms made from short words like "keep + in + touch"
- Other idiomatic language or slang
- Very polite language such as "Would you mind...?"
- Similar to emails to friends and family
- Exclamation marks and multiple punctuation (e.g. !!!!)
- Emoticons such as smileys
- Greeting with first name (= given name)
- Sign off with first name and family name

Some of the sections above are actually too formal or too informal for most business emails. Try to find those sections and then rewrite or replace the sentences to make them more suitable.

What are the functions of the following emails? What are their levels of formality?

Write the emails that come before and after those two with the right levels of formality for homework.



Dear Sir or Madam

I saw your advertisement in the Guardian last week and I am writing to ask for more information about your services.

First of all, I would like to know more about the costs and conditions involved in having a contract with your company. Could you possibly tell me the usual cost and payment conditions?

My second question was about after sales service. More specifically, I'd be interested to hear how long it takes for a service engineer to come out.

Finally, could I ask about the minimum and maximum lengths of contract?

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours

Alex Case, Head of Purchasing, British Corporation

Hi Alex

How's it going? Hope your weekend wasn't ruined by the weather.

Here's the info you asked for:

- *It usually costs 400 pounds, more or less, and you have to pay within a month*
- *Two days max, but usually within 24hrs*
- *The minimum is six months. Never thought about a maximum! Two years??*

Hope that helps. Drop me a line if there's anything else you want to know.

Cheers

John

Cards for students to raise when listening

Formal	Informal
Formal	Informal
Formal	Informal



Suggested answers

Too formal

If you need any further information, please do not have the slightest hesitation in contacting me at any time at all – If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

I am very grateful to you for responding to my email so quickly. – Thank you for your quick reply.

We deeply regret any inconvenience we might have caused any of you in any way. – We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused.

It was an honour to meet you yesterday – It was a pleasure to meet you yesterday/ Thank you for making the time to meet me yesterday

Thank you in advance for all and any help you are able to offer me on this matter. – Thank you in advance/ Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

You have my eternal gratitude for helping me. – Thank you very much for all your help.

Could you possibly have a little look at the attached document, if it's not too much trouble? – Any feedback you can give me on the attached document would be gratefully received.

Too informal

Check this out! – Please see the information below.

Do it asap. – If you could finish it by the end of today, that would allow me to forward it to my boss before the weekend.

Help! – Could you give me a hand (with...)?

I can't make it then. – I can't make it at 9, but I'm free from 11.

I expect action now – Your rapid response would be greatly appreciated.

I need it right away. – Could you let me have it in the next couple of days?

I want you to... - Would you mind...?/ Could you...?

It wasn't our fault – This was due to circumstances beyond our control.

I'm too busy. - I'm afraid I have another appointment at that time.

I'm waiting impatiently for your reply – I'm looking forward to your quick reply.

Lots of love/ Love from/ With all my love/ Hugs and kisses/ XXX – Best regards/ Yours/ All the best/ Sincerely/ Sincerely yours

Miss you! – Long time no see/ I'm sorry it took me so long to write back./ It seems so long since we last met.

Please let me know by tomorrow. – Can you let me know by tomorrow, because I need to check the details with my boss?

Send my love to John – Say hi to John from me/ Please send my regards to John/ Please send my best wishes to John

Whassup? – How are you?/ How's it going?/ How are things?/ I hope you are (all) well

Write soon! – I look forward to hearing from you soon./ (I'm) looking forward to hearing from you.