

What is Register and Style?

Worksheet

Register is the formality level of language (formal, neutral, colloquial, slang). Style is how meaning is expressed through vocabulary, structure, and tone. Both adapt to context: 'I'm not here' (colloquial) vs. 'My presence is not required' (formal).

Questions

1. Which sentence is formal?

- A) I'm gonna finish this tomorrow.
- B) I shall complete this task by tomorrow.
- C) I'll do it tomorrow.
- D) I gotta do this tomorrow.

2. What registers would a text message use?

- A) Formal and frozen
- B) Casual and intimate
- C) Consultative and neutral
- D) Technical and academic

3. Rewrite in consultative register: 'Yo, what's up?'

- A) Good evening, how are you?
- B) Hi, how are you doing?
- C) Greetings; how do you do?
- D) What is occurring?

4. Using the wrong register might make you sound...

- A) intelligent
- B) rude or unprofessional
- C) more interesting
- D) funny

5. Express 'I'm tired' in three registers: formal, neutral, casual.

6. Rewrite 'The student didn't get the homework done' in formal register.

7. What register would you use to apply for a job? Provide an example sentence.

8. Define: What is register?

9. Define: What is style in writing?

10. Define: Why is register important?

Answer Key

1. B) I shall complete this task by tomorrow. — 'Shall complete...by tomorrow' is formal: archaic verb 'shall', no contractions, future time marker.
2. B) Casual and intimate — Text messages are typically casual and intimate—brief, informal, often with abbreviations.
3. B) Hi, how are you doing? — Consultative register is semi-formal, friendly but respectful. 'Hi, how are you doing?' strikes that balance.
4. B) rude or unprofessional — Register mismatch is socially inappropriate—formal in casual settings or slang in professional contexts.
5. Formal: 'I am fatigued and would benefit from rest.' Neutral: 'I am tired and need rest.' Casual: 'I'm exhausted, man.' or 'I'm dead.'
6. Casual: 'The student didn't finish their homework.' Formal: 'The student failed to complete the assigned work.' Key: replace contractions, add specific vocabulary.
7. Register: Formal/professional. Example: 'I am writing to express my interest in this position.' Avoid: contractions, slang, overly casual tone.
8. The formality level of language—formal, neutral, colloquial, slang—chosen for a specific context and audience.
9. How writers express ideas through vocabulary, sentence structure, tone, and punctuation.
10. Using the wrong register is rude or unprofessional. Formal writing to friends or slang in essays is inappropriate.

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