

What is Register?

Worksheet

Register is your choice of formality level — formal (official, respectful), informal (casual, friendly), or neutral (standard, balanced). Context and audience decide which register fits.

Questions

1. Which sentence is formal register?
A) Hey, how ya doin?
B) I hope this email finds you well.
C) Wanna grab lunch?
D) Yo, what's up?
2. When would you use informal register at work?
A) In a client presentation
B) With your manager in a meeting
C) In a casual chat with coworkers
D) In a formal report
3. What is a hallmark of formal register?
A) Lots of slang
B) Complete sentences and standard grammar
C) Emojis and abbreviations
D) Contractions like 'won't'
4. Neutral register is...
A) Never polite
B) Never casual
C) Balanced between formal and informal
D) Always boring
5. Email to your professor: What register would you use?
6. Text to a friend about weekend plans: What register?
7. Presentation to a general audience: What register?
8. Define: What is register?
9. Define: Formal register: when?
10. Define: Informal register: when?

Answer Key

1. B) I hope this email finds you well. — Formal register uses polite, complete phrases like 'I hope this email finds you well.'
2. C) In a casual chat with coworkers — Informal register is OK in casual workplace chat with coworkers, not in official settings.
3. B) Complete sentences and standard grammar — Formal register uses complete sentences, standard grammar, no contractions or slang.
4. C) Balanced between formal and informal — Neutral register is balanced — clear and respectful without being stiff or too casual.
5. Formal register — use 'Dear Professor', full sentences, standard spelling, no slang. Example: 'I would like to discuss the assignment deadline.'
6. Informal register — use nicknames, contractions, casual words, maybe emojis. Example: 'Hey! U free Sat? Wanna grab coffee?'
7. Neutral register — clear, standard, not too casual or stiff. Example: 'We'll now look at how this process works.'
8. Your choice of formality level — formal, informal, or neutral — matched to audience and context.
9. Business, official settings, respect needed (boss, professor, stranger).
10. Friends, family, relaxed social settings, casual chat.

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