

What is Register?

Worksheet

Register is the style of language adjusted for context and audience — formal (academic papers, interviews), informal (casual conversation), technical (specialized fields), or colloquial (everyday slang). Skilled speakers and writers shift register naturally.

Questions

1. Which sentence uses formal register?

- A) Yeah, I dunno, maybe?
- B) I would appreciate your input.
- C) That's like, totally cool.
- D) Just chill, bro.

2. What defines informal register?

- A) sophisticated vocabulary
- B) contractions and casual tone
- C) technical jargon
- D) academic language

3. Which context **REQUIRES** formal register?

- A) texting a friend
- B) email to your professor
- C) instant messaging
- D) casual conversation

4. Shifting register means...

- A) changing the topic
- B) adjusting style for context and audience
- C) using more words
- D) speaking louder

5. Rewrite this formal sentence in informal register: 'I would appreciate your assistance with this matter.'

6. Rewrite this informal text in formal register: 'Yeah, the thing is, we gotta fix it ASAP cuz it's broken.'

7. Identify the register: 'The algorithm employs a recursive descent parser to tokenize input.'

8. Define: Formal register marker

9. Define: Informal register marker

10. Define: Technical register marker

Answer Key

1. B) I would appreciate your input. — 'I would appreciate your input' uses formal register — complete sentence, polite construction, no contractions.
2. B) contractions and casual tone — Informal register uses contractions ('I'm', 'don't'), colloquial phrases, and a relaxed tone.
3. B) email to your professor — Academic communication (emails to professors) requires formal register — professional language and respectful tone.
4. B) adjusting style for context and audience — Register shift = adapting vocabulary, tone, and grammar to match the social context and audience.
5. Formal: uses 'would appreciate', formal 'matter'. Informal equivalent: 'Can you help me with this?' or 'Could you give me a hand?' Key shifts: remove would, replace 'assistance' with 'help', use contraction 'Can you'.
6. Informal: uses 'yeah', 'gotta', 'cuz', all caps 'ASAP'. Formal equivalent: 'We must address this issue immediately, as it is currently nonfunctional.' Key shifts: replace 'yeah' with acknowledgment, 'gotta' → 'must', 'cuz' → 'as', spell out acronyms if first use.
7. Register: Technical/Specialized. Evidence: uses jargon ('algorithm', 'recursive descent parser', 'tokenize'), precise vocabulary. Context: likely a computer science or programming manual.
8. Complete sentences, no contractions, sophisticated vocabulary. Example: 'I would be grateful for your assistance.'
9. Contractions, colloquial phrases, casual tone. Example: 'I'd really appreciate your help, thanks!'
10. Jargon, precise terminology, domain-specific language. Example: 'The neural network employs backpropagation for optimization.'

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