

# What is Register Variation and Code-Switching?

## Worksheet

Register is your level of formality and vocabulary choice (vous vs. tu, bonsoir vs. salut); code-switching is alternating between languages (speaking French and English in one sentence).

## Questions

1. Formal register in French typically uses...

- A) Vous and complete sentences
- B) Tu and slang
- C) Abbreviations and emojis
- D) Loud, emphatic tone

2. When would you code-switch?

- A) To show off your languages
- B) In monolingual settings
- C) With bilingual friends who share both languages
- D) Only in written text

3. Which is informal register?

- A) 'Bonjour monsieur, comment allez-vous?'
- B) 'Salut! Ça va bien?'
- C) 'Je vous prie de répondre.'
- D) 'Merci beaucoup, madame.'

4. Code-switching is a sign of...

- A) Poor language skills
- B) Confusion between languages
- C) Bilingual identity and natural communication
- D) Inability to speak properly

5. You're in a job interview. What register do you use?

6. Texting your French friend — what register?

7. Bilingual code-switching example: 'Je vais to the store parce que I need quelques things.'

8. Define: What is register in language?

9. Define: Difference between tu and vous in French?

10. Define: What is code-switching?

## Answer Key

1. A) Vous and complete sentences — Formal register uses vous (plural/respectful form), polite phrases, and standard pronunciation.
2. C) With bilingual friends who share both languages — Code-switching happens naturally when both parties speak multiple languages — it's not showing off, just authentic communication.
3. B) 'Salut! Ça va bien?' — 'Salut' and 'ça va' are casual; the others use formal vous or polite structures.
4. C) Bilingual identity and natural communication — Code-switching is a normal, skilled practice in multilingual communities — not an error.
5. Formal register: Vous, complete sentences, standard pronunciation. Example: 'Bonjour, je serais très honoré de travailler pour votre entreprise.' Avoid: Tu, slang, casual phrases.
6. Informal register: Tu, abbreviations, emojis, colloquial language. Example: 'Salut! Ça va? Tu fais quoi ce soir? ' No formality needed.
7. Speaker alternates between French and English naturally. Reason: Mixed family/friend group, or the English phrase is more common in that context. This is normal in multilingual communities, not a mistake.
8. The level of formality and style of speech, adapted to the audience and context (formal, informal, neutral).
9. Tu is informal (friends, family); vous is formal (strangers, authority, or plural).
10. Alternating between two or more languages in the same conversation or utterance — common in bilingual communities.

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