

 **Formal and informal writing**

Formal writing can sound quite serious, but informal writing is chattier and friendlier. When you're writing something important, you'll need to use formal writing.

1. Underline the parts of these sentences which make them questions, and then rewrite each sentence in formal English. *Speech can be formal or informal too — just like writing.*

They do like chocolate cake, don't they?

.....

Julia will be angry if she misses the start of the race, won't she?

.....

All this snow will slow them down, don't you think?

.....

2. Tick the version of each sentence which is written in formal English.

- a. These geese are driving me crazy!  I find these geese extremely annoying.
- b. It is very hot in here.  It's boiling in here!
- c. You enjoyed feeding the kangaroos, didn't you?  Did you enjoy feeding the kangaroos?

3. Complete the sentences below with a verb in the subjunctive form.


If I ..... you, I would put that penguin down.

It is essential that he ..... the question.

*The subjunctive is usually only used in very formal writing and speech. Examples of the subjunctive include "If I were rich..." and "It is vital that she attend the meeting."*

Grammagators are always on top form when they're using formal English. How did you find this page?



 **Mixed practice**

Have you got the hang of writing styles? Give these questions a go, and see how you get on.

1. Underline the sentences in Non-Standard English in the passage below.

My teacher, Mr Brigley, won an award for a production he was in last week. I seen the play, and it were really good. I've told my friends and my parents all about it. They're all gonna go see it, but I dunno when. Mr Brigley is a bit embarrassed about it all. He says he ain't used to all the attention he's bin getting. It been in all the newspapers, and he were even on TV.

2. Match each sentence to the correct label below.

There's no way I'm going with her!	informal
We do not have any beavers.	
I would be happier if he were here.	formal
Gunter'll give me a call later.	

3. Tick the sentences below that contain a verb in the subjunctive form.

- a. Things would be much better organised if Abby were in charge.
- b. There was no cheese left, so we had baked beans instead.
- c. Marian and Paula were planning to go to the library after school.
- d. If I were a millionaire, I would buy my own zoo.
- e. It is essential that Jeremy pay attention during the training course.
- f. You would have enjoyed the film — it was really funny.