

Language Usage: Formal to Informal

Very Formal

Printed unchanging language; often contains archaisms (The Bible, The Koran, etc.).



Formal

One-way participation, no interruption, essays. Technical vocabulary; "Fussy semantics" or exact definitions are important. Includes introductions between strangers.



Neutral (Consultative)

Two-way participation. Background information is provided — prior knowledge is not assumed. 'Backchannel behavior' such as "uh huh", "I see", etc. is common. Interruptions allowed (Business Letters).



Informal (Casual)

Group friends and acquaintances. No background information provided. Ellipsis and slang common. Interruptions common (E-mail).



Very Informal

Non-public. Intonation is more important than wording or grammar. Private vocabulary (Facebook, texting).