

This is part of a suite of materials produced to support national moderation training. It is not intended to inform teaching. Many of the examples are taken from the pupil scripts used in the training materials.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Some features that may indicate informality** | **Some features that may indicate formality** |
| Contracted forms, for example   * *Let’s get you an ice pack…* * *They wouldn’t have…if they hadn’t...* * *They’ve taken the sheep!* | Some modal verbs in certain grammatical structures, for example   * *Should it rain, we may have to cancel the picnic.* * *This village would appear normal…* * *Most people might ask…* |
| Question tags, for example   * *He’s your friend, isn’t he?* * *These are your shoes, aren’t they?* | The subjunctive, for example   * *If I were to come in…* * *Were they to come in…* * *They requested that he leave immediately.* |
| ‘Multi-word’ verbs, for example   * *find out* rather than *discover* * *ask for* rather than *request* | Some use of abstract nouns, and noun phrases used as the subject of the verb, for example   * *Darkness was being whispered in…* * *…full of despair.* * *Of course, the most significant matter of evacuation is…* |
| Passives using ‘get’, for example   * *I got my hair cut last week.* * *He got told off by the teacher.* | Some passive constructions, for example   * *It is widely believed that…* * *You are provided with a life-jacket…* * *Flocks of sheep have been taken…* |
| Second person direct address to the reader, and some usage of first person, for example   * *If you love a challenge – however difficult – then you will…* * *Are you nervous about the London trip?* * *When we arrived at school we…* | The personal pronoun ‘one’, for example   * *One should not be concerned about…* * *It is better to do this oneself.* |
| Vernacular (everyday) language, including idioms, for example   * *…do your bit for the war.* * *…the words are stuck in my throat.* * *Take selfies with no teacher in!* | Vocabulary that is technical, or context/subject-specific, for example   * *…plea for mercy…* * *…oil producers… plantations… nonsustainable…* * *…these are my words of farewell.* |
| Features that replicate spoken language, such as ellipsis, discourse markers and some non-standard forms, for example   * *‘OK…what time?’ ‘Eleven.’* * *Well stop right there!* * *“C’mon, he wasn’t doin’ nothin’!”* | Nominalisation (use of nouns rather than verbs or adjectives), for example  *The arrival of the mysterious stranger caused considerable excitement,* rather than  *We were very excited when the mysterious stranger arrived.* |