## Formal and Informal Language

Formal language is often used when you are writing something important (imagine you are writing or speaking to the Queen).

Informal language is used within a much more relaxed setting (think about the way in which you speak to your friends).

## Formal and Informal Language

Nearly there. This is the <u>last</u> page to learn in this section — hurrah. I've saved the best 'til last, so here's a thrilling page on <u>formal</u> and <u>informal language</u>. (It's not really thrilling — sorry.)

## Formal and informal texts use different words

You can usually tell the difference between a formal text and an informal one pretty easily.

1) Formal writing uses more complicated words:

I <u>asked for</u> the salad.

I <u>requested</u> the salad.

'Requested' is more <u>complicated</u> than 'asked for'

2) Informal writing sometimes uses question tags (see p.18):

You're coming later, aren't you?

This is a question tag.

This sentence also uses contractions — 'you're' and 'aren't' (see p.33). Formal writing doesn't use these.

Draw lines to match each informal sentence with an equivalent formal sentence.

That's ace!

He'll be fuming, won't he?

It's very nippy outside!

I'm really chuffed.

It is very cold outside.

I am very happy.

Speech can be formal or informal too — just like writing.

That is great.

Do you think he will be angry?

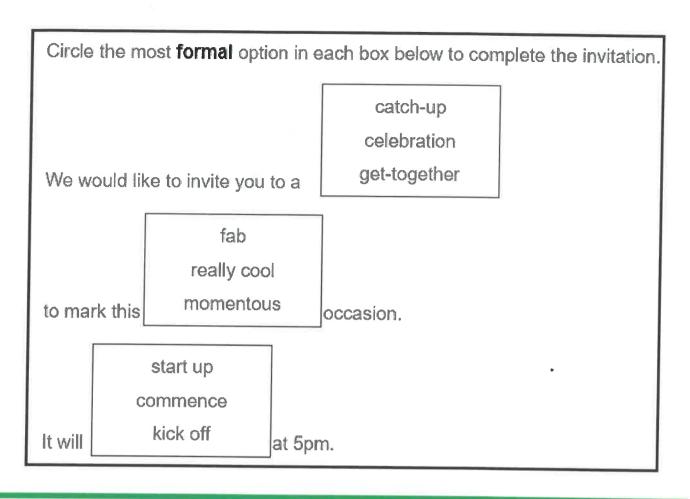
## Formal and Informal Language

Have a go at these SATs style questions:

Which sentence is the most formal?	
	Tick one.
The way they played was terrible, wasn't it?	
I wish they'd put a little more effort in today!	
If only they'd tried a bit harder, they would've won.	
The team were defeated due to mistakes that they made.	
Which sentence is the most formal?	
Which sentence is the most <b>formal</b> ?	Tick <b>one</b> .
Which sentence is the most <b>formal</b> ?  She suggested that her mother be present.	Tick <b>one</b> .
	Tick one.
She suggested that her mother be present.	Tick one.

Underline the sentence that is the most **formal** in the passage below.

Hope you can make it to my birthday party next week! It's going to be great! The venue is yet to be confirmed. I'm still checking out a couple of places.



Write a formal letter to Mr Harrison (Headteacher) asking him for something that you think would improve the school - this could be longer break times, extra PE lessons, more sports equipment, anything you like. Use a formal tone throughout: