

Formal / Informal / Slang Language Style

PowerPoint and related resources

Formal	Informal	Slang
comprehend	understand	get it
intoxicated	drunk	wasted
exhausted	tired	knackered
without manual dexterity	clumsy	rock handed
lady	girl	labe



Imogen Stewart, the contributor, says:

Hi Maggie,

I have shared this resource at Stafford College and have had some good feedback so thought I should share it with you. The subject is an intro to formal/informal and slang language. It may not be ideal for all groups, but certainly bits can be taken from it! It is aimed at L1/L2 students.

Here is how I used the PowerPoint. As an intro, we looked at the images on slides 2-7 and I got the learners to think of lots of suitable words that could describe them – basically working towards the terms 'formal' and 'informal'. We then talked about slang, where an image of Vicky Pollard resulted in the suggestion of Chav (which was the next slide) and we then talked about the definition.

The Chav definition (slide 8) was also used as a worksheet / guide. As my students had been doing prefix work I set them the task of defining some words with prefixes e.g. anti-social, subculture etc. They used the online dictionary to find out the meaning of the prefix and the word as a whole.

The table (slide 10) gives formal / informal /slang examples of words with similar meanings. This was followed up by the worksheet (see page 2) with gaps to fill in (this can be folded to work without prompts). I also got the learners to come up with their own examples (I did some local research and had some examples to get them going - my group were very Cannock / Rugeley with a touch of Black Country influence), see page 3.

In a different follow up lesson (this will depend on the level and type of group) I used 3 tracks from a Little Britain Audio CD:

- 1. CD2 track 13 formal v informal letter (transcript attached on page 4 for analysis after listening)*
- 2. CD1 track 12 very posh lady (who is really a man - Emily Howard) picking out formal language used*
- 3. CD1 track 18 court language (very formal) versus slang used by Vicky Pollard in court. The worksheet on page 5 was then used for further reinforcement*

I had great fun with this and the students enjoyed it. Warning - the audio CD clips do contain a little strong language!

Imogen Stewart, Stafford College.

Language Style PowerPoint available at: <http://www.skillsworkshop.org/text/l1l2style.zip>

This resource kindly contributed by Imogen Stewart, Stafford College i.stewart@staffordcoll.ac.uk

Wt/L1.4 Use language suitable for purpose & audience. **Rw/L1.1** Use reference material to find meanings of unfamiliar words. **Rw/L1.2** Recognise and understand vocabulary associated with different types of text.

Slang worksheet

Using appropriate reference tools, fill in the missing blanks in the table below. Only refer to the word bank if you are *really* stuck!

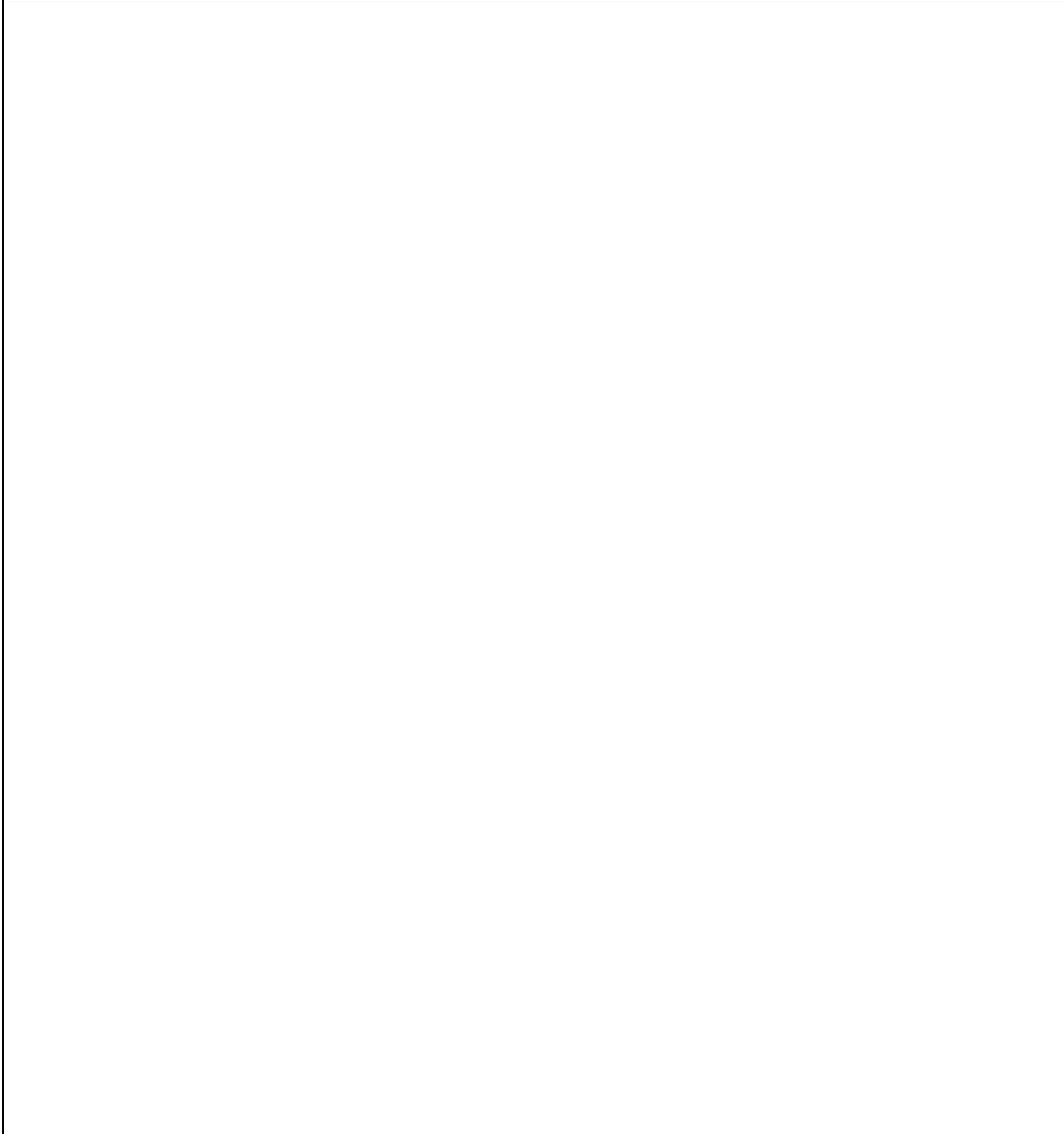
Formal	Informal	Slang
malfunction		gone to pot
apathetic		(can't be) arsed
	honey	babe
demented		nuts
	messed up	ballsed-up
beverage	drink	
spectacles		bins
gentleman	man	
	pleased	chuffed
authentic		pukka
	small	piddly

-----fold here-----

<u>Word bank</u>			
	gone wrong	crazy	ruined
darling	insignificant	real	delighted
not bothered	glasses	bevy	bloke

What slang do you use?

List some slang that you use in the box below and give a definition...

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to write their answers to the question above. The box is currently blank.

Formal v informal writing

Transcripts taken from CD Audio “Little Britain”

Dear Royal Shakespeare Company,

I read in The Stage today that you are casting for a production of Macbeth and I am writing to ask if you would consider me for the part of Fleance.

I am enclosing my photograph and CV.

Yours sincerely

O Laurence

Olivier Laurence (Aged 9)

Dear Shits

I am the best actor in the world, ever! I've always loved Shakespeare's plays and am delighted to hear he's written a new one, Macbeth.

I would be a brilliant Macbeth (did you see Bodger and Badger?)

If you don't give me this job now, I'm gonna do you a mischief.

Yours sincerely

O Laurence

Olivier Laurence (Aged 9)

PS If you're stuck, my mother is a very beautiful woman and will make a great Mrs. Macbeth. She is very experienced in the business having once seen an episode of Shoestring being filmed.

Formal and Informal language - listening

Here are some of the phrases that Vicky Pollard used.

How could we change her expressions to make them more formal?

Informal/slang phrase or word	More formal version...
Shut up	
The thing is	
Don't even go there	
Getting off	
Anyway, right	
Done this thing	
Don't even know about	
It aint as simple as that	
What happened was	
I done it	
There was some bloke	
Not done it	