

Style – some differences between formal and informal English

MORE FORMAL	MORE INFORMAL
SINGLE WORD VERBS – LONG VERBS (OFTEN WITH LATIN ORIGIN) Participate Receive Calculate Organise Become angry Improve	PHRASAL VERBS / GET Take part in Get Work out Get in order Get angry Get better
INTENSIFIERS Extremely, very e.g. I was extremely angry	INTENSIFIERS Really, sure e.g. I was really angry, I sure was angry (AmE)
FORMAL CONNECTING WORDS* Moreover, furthermore, in addition to Subsequently Therefore	INFORMAL CONNECTING WORDS And, also Next, then So
IMPERSONAL CONSTRUCTIONS* It is said that....	ACTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS They say that...
ABSTRACT NOUNS* Is happiness possible during unemployment? After clarification of the problem areas...	MODAL VERBS, ADJECTIVES, CLAUSES, ETC. Can people be happy when they haven't got a job? After the bits that everyone was getting wrong had been explained....
COMPLEX SENTENCES* After placing the chemical in the fluid, it should be left for a short period.	SIMPLE SENTENCES Place the chemical in the fluid. Leave it for a short period.
NO CONTRACTIONS I will, I would like	CONTRACTIONS I'll, I'd like
INDIRECT QUESTIONS I wonder if you could tell me the costs... The question of why this is relevant can be answered.....	DIRECT QUESTIONS How much is it? Why is this a relevant question today?
NO COLLOQUIALISMS / SLANG As you might be aware, there are a number of poor children in that area.	COLLOQUIALISMS / SLANG You know, there are lots of poor kids in that area.
PRECISE TERMS e.g. what kind of tool	VAGUE COLLECTIVE TERMS e.g. the thing
SOME PUNCTUATION : ; e.g. The reasons for this include the following : the position.....	SOME PUNCTUATION ! ? e.g. I couldn't believe it!