

## Language registers

### Register

- Language varies according to the situation in which it is used
- Registers determine speakers' linguistic choices at all linguistic levels

## Linguistic competence

- Speakers have control over **many registers** and are able to shift from one to another depending on the context and the communicative needs (**verbal repertoires**)
- What varies is intonation, vocabulary, grammar etc.

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## Language use

Language use depends on the context and the relation between the speakers

**For example:**

there are huge differences in the language, intonation and style used by:

- a mother talking to her child
- two professionals talking to each other
- two friends talking to each other

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## Using the real language....

It is important that you try to learn to match the right language with right situation/the right people...

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## This means...

lexical choices (vocabulary)  
grammar  
styles  
expressions  
intonation...

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## How to distinguish between words from formal vs. informal registers

- In English many words have been derived from Latin/French/Romance languages
- Often Latin words coexist with germanic words (original English) words, but are used in more formal registers

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## Some examples:

- Rapid
- Salute
- Obtain
- Difficult
- Possible
- Appear
- Sufficient
- Demonstrate

- Fast
- Greet
- Get
- Hard
- Likely
- Seem
- Enough
- Show

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## More on formal vs. informal registers

- Many English words have also been borrowed from French at different points in history
- Words that entered the English vocabulary at times when the Normans (and later the French) had political and/or cultural power on Britain still enjoy greater prestige (are used in more formal styles)

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## Some examples:

- Chef
- Cuisine
- Degustation
- Faux
- Petite
- Sauté
- Veal
- Pork
- Legal words

- Cook
- Kitchen
- Tasting
- Fake (cf. lat. false)
- Little, small
- Fried
- Calf
- Pig

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## Phrasal verbs

- Phrasal verbs are typically used:
  - in spoken language
  - in informal registers
- For most phrasal verbs, there is an equivalent, more formal, non phrasal verb

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## Some examples:

- Pick up
- Pick out
- Turn down
- Turn into
- Work in(to)
- Give away
- Go in

- Learn / Apprehend
- Choose / Select
- Say no / Decline
- Become / Evolve
- Wriggle / Insinuate
- Show / Reveal
- Pierce / Penetrate

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