

Formal, casual and slang: choosing your register

French 4 (high school) · Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Level: French 4 (high school, ACTFL Intermediate Mid) · **Standards:** ACTFL Intermediate Mid, WL 1.2 Interpretive, WL 1.3 Presentational, WL 4.1 Language Comparisons, WL 2.1 Cultural Practices

Problem 1 Name the register (easy)

Write the register (soutenu, courant or familier) of each sentence.

- Salut, ça va ?
- Bonjour, madame. Comment allez-vous ?
- Je vous prie de bien vouloir m'excuser.

Problem 2 Which word is casual? (easy)

Choose the casual word: ouvrage / livre / bouquin.

Problem 3 Slang to standard (easy)

Match each casual word to its standard equivalent.

- le fric
- le boulot
- la bagnole
- le pote

- la voiture
- l'argent
- l'ami
- le travail

Match 1-4 with A-D.

Problem 4 Decode the verlan (easy)

Write the standard word for each verlan word.

- meuf
- ouf

- c. relou
- d. chelou

Hint: femme, fou, lourd, louche.

Problem 5 Decode the texts (easy)

Write the full French word for each abbreviation.

- a. slt
- b. bcp
- c. pk
- d. dsl

Problem 6 Email to the principal (easy)

Choose the appropriate opening for an email to a school principal.

- a. Salut, t'as vu mon dossier ?
- b. Bonjour Madame la Proviseure, avez-vous reçu mon dossier ?

Problem 7 Tu or vous (easy)

Complete with tu or vous.

- a. Madame, ____ pouvez m'aider, s'il vous plaît ?
- b. Salut Yanis, ____ viens au foot ?

Problem 8 Put back the ne (medium)

Rewrite in standard French by adding ne: Je sais pas. Il vient jamais. On a rien vu.

Problem 9 Casual to standard (medium)

Rewrite in standard French: T'as bouffé quoi ce midi ?

Problem 10 Expand the text (medium)

Rewrite in full French: SlT, tkt, a+ ! (tkt = t'inquiète pas)

Problem 11 Polite request (medium)

Translate into formal French: *Could you tell me the time, please?*

Problem 12 Casual sentence (medium)

Translate into casual French using one casual word from this chapter: *My buddy's car is huge.*

Problem 13 Annoying thing (medium)

Translate into English: *C'est trop relou, ce truc !*

Problem 14 Fix the cover letter (medium)

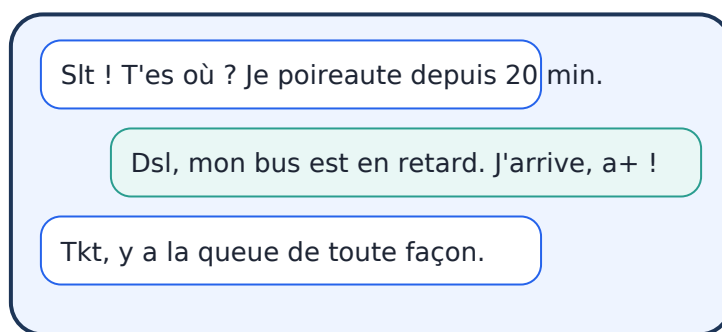
The sentence is too casual for a job application. Rewrite it in formal French: *Salut, j'ai kiffé ton annonce, je veux bien bosser chez toi.*

Problem 15 Best register (medium)

Write the best register for each situation: (a) ordering bread in a bakery, (b) texting a teammate, (c) writing to a host-school coordinator.

Problem 16 Reading: waiting at the movies (hard)

Read the messages, then answer in English.



Mathis and Fatou text.

- Why is Mathis annoyed?
- Why is Fatou late?
- Name two texting abbreviations and one casual spelling feature in the messages.

Problem 17 Three audiences (hard)

Ask to borrow a book in three registers: (a) to a close friend, (b) to a teacher, (c) in a formal letter to a librarian. Write one sentence for each.

Problem 18 Hotel message (hard)

Correct three register mistakes in this note to a hotel: Salut ! J'ai réservé une chambre mais j'ai pas le temps de venir ce soir. Tu peux garder ma bagnole ? Rewrite the note in formal French.

Problem 19 Soutenu to familier (hard)

Rewrite in casual French: Je vous prie de m'excuser : je n'ai pas pu terminer mon travail.

Problem 20 Two messages (hard)

You are on an exchange trip to Lyon. Write (a) a 2-sentence text to a friend and (b) a 3-sentence formal email to the program coordinator, both about a missed bus. Check the register of each.