1.7 USE OF ENGLISH

Register

I can use formal and informal language appropriately.

1 SPEAKING **Read UK TODAY. Discuss why you think fewer UK students are studying foreign languages these days. What is the situation in your country?**

UK TODAY

International exchange trips

- Young people can experience life with a host family and at a local high school, new places, customs and people.
- 62 percent of UK students decided to study languages at university after an exchange trip, but …
- Only 30 percent of state secondary schools organise international exchange trips these days and …
- Fewer than 8 percent of UK students study a foreign language until age eighteen and the numbers are falling.

Text 1

To: Jill Duncan (Head of English)
From: Angie Dalton (School Exchange Organiser)

Hi Jill,

I've been thinking about having a welcome party for the Swiss exchange students. They can come to a get-together in the main hall. Make sure all your staff come along and also could you say a few words? – you know, say hello and tell the visitors a bit about the school and the town. We'll follow this with a bit of food (menu TBC). They can come in through the main entrance and we can get our students to say hello and then they can show the exchange students around the school.

BTW, I've already posted a map and directions on the website.

Thanks, Jill

Angie

Stoneberry School

Text 2

You are invited to attend a reception in honour of the exchange group from Switzerland.

The reception will be held in the school assembly hall from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

All English teaching staff will be present and in addition the Head of English will give a welcome speech.

This will be followed by light refreshments. A map and directions have been posted on the website.

Please enter through the front entrance where student representatives will greet you.

Visitors will be given a guided tour of the school.

2 **Read Texts 1 and 2 and answer the questions.**

1 What is happening at Stoneberry School?
2 What is the purpose of Text 1 and Text 2?
3 Which text is formal/informal? Why?

3 **Complete the LANGUAGE FOCUS with the examples in blue in Texts 1 and 2.**

4 **There are twelve more underlined examples of formal and informal equivalents in Texts 1 and 2. Write them down in a new formal/informal table.**

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Register – formal and informal language

Formal language is more common in written English, e.g. in official documents, business letters and invitations. It is also used in certain spoken contexts such as announcements, presentations or speeches. Informal language is more common in spoken English. It's also used in some written contexts, e.g. in informal emails, blogs or postcards.

Formal	Informal
No contractions or abbreviations:	**Contractions and abbreviations:**
I have been thinking …	[1] *I've been thinking …*
To be confirmed	[2] _____
Greater use of the Passive:	**Less use of the Passive:**
[3] _____	*We'll follow this …*
More use of indirect questions:	**More use of direct questions:**
Do you think you could say a few words?	[4] _____ ?

Formal	Informal
More complex noun phrases:	**Simpler noun phrases:**
light refreshments	[5] _____
More verbs of Latin origin:	**More phrasal verbs:**
[6] _____	*come in*
Complex prepositional phrases:	**Simple prepositions:**
a reception [7] _____	*a welcome party for the exchange students*
the exchange group	**Neutral linkers:**
More formal linkers:	*also*
[8] _____	*BTW (by the way)*
incidentally	

LIVEWORKSHEETS