

Language note

An E-mail is a quick and easy way to write to anyone, wherever they are in the world. It's a kind of informal writing that uses 'colloquial language'. The colloquial language is natural language that is used between friends in informal speech and writing. It varies considerably from place to place. No one expects you to learn it all, but don't be afraid to ask the meaning if you see a phrase you don't understand. Here are a few examples:

USA/Canada:	Sure (=Certainly.)
Australia:	See you this arvo. (We'll meet this afternoon.)
Scotland:	Nae bother. (It's not a problem.)
Ireland:	Grand! (=Great, Excellent.)
England:	Innit. (=isn't it?) Eyup (=Hello.)

1. Read the e-mail again. Underline five example of Colloquial language. What does each phrase mean?

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2. Read the e-mail again and the email's Colloquial that match with these sentences.

1. Hello.
2. How are you?
3. Please tell me about what is happening.
4. I'm sad that I can't see you very often.
5. I don't understand.

Although emails to friends are generally informal, that doesn't mean they should all be written the same way. This means if your friend is unhappy and needs cheering up, you might write more seriously, and miss out your usually jokes.