



This handout was part of a suite of materials produced by the STA to support national moderation training. It is **not** intended to inform teaching and should not be used as a checklist of things that children should be able to do.

Some features that may indicate informality	Some features that may indicate formality
Contracted forms, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Let's get you an ice pack...</i> • <i>They wouldn't have...if they hadn't...</i> • <i>They've taken the sheep!</i> 	Some modal verbs in certain grammatical structures, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Should it rain, we may have to cancel the picnic.</i> • <i>This village would appear normal...</i> • <i>Most people might ask...</i>
Question tags, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He's your friend, isn't he?</i> • <i>These are your shoes, aren't they?</i> 	The subjunctive, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If I were to come in...</i> • <i>Were they to come in...</i> • <i>They requested that he leave immediately.</i>
'Multi-word' verbs, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>find out</i> rather than <i>discover</i> • <i>ask for</i> rather than <i>request</i> 	Some use of abstract nouns, and noun phrases used as the subject of the verb, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i><u>Darkness</u> was being whispered in...</i> • <i>...full of <u>despair</u>.</i> • <i>Of course, <u>the most significant matter of evacuation</u> is...</i>
Passives using 'get', for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I got my hair cut last week.</i> • <i>He got told off by the teacher.</i> 	Some passive constructions, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It is widely believed that...</i> • <i>You are provided with a life-jacket...</i> • <i>Flocks of sheep have been taken...</i>
Second person direct address to the reader, and some usage of first person, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If you love a challenge – however difficult – then you will...</i> • <i>Are you nervous about the London trip?</i> • <i>When we arrived at school we...</i> 	The personal pronoun 'one', for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One should not be concerned about...</i> • <i>It is better to do this oneself.</i>
Vernacular (everyday) language, including idioms, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>...do your bit for the war.</i> • <i>...the words are stuck in my throat.</i> • <i>Take selfies with no teacher in!</i> 	Vocabulary that is technical, or context/subject-specific, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>...plea for mercy...</i> • <i>...oil producers... plantations... unsustainable...</i> • <i>...these are my words of farewell.</i>
Features that replicate spoken language, such as ellipsis, discourse markers and some non-standard forms, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'OK...what time?' 'Eleven.'</i> • <i>Well stop right there!</i> • <i>"C'mon, he wasn't doin' nothin'!"</i> 	Nominalisation (use of nouns rather than verbs or adjectives), for example <i>The <u>arrival</u> of the mysterious stranger caused considerable <u>excitement</u>, rather than We were very <u>excited</u> when the mysterious stranger <u>arrived</u>.</i>