

That's register for you!

Think about occasions when you have met different kinds of people in different situations. Have you noticed how your language has changed according to who that person is? Now, act out the situations below with your partner, paying attention to your language use from your first reaction when greeting the person to the vocabulary you choose to use. Are you going to use slang words or formal words? Why do you think you act the way you do?

1. You meet your best friend.
2. You meet your best friend's new girlfriend / boyfriend for the first time.
3. You meet your boyfriend's / girlfriend's parents for the first time.
4. You meet your head teacher in his/her office / in the street / in any public place.
5. You meet someone who has just recently lost a person who was close to them.
6. You meet your bank manager to negotiate a loan.
7. You meet your nephew/niece.
8. You meet the person you have secretly been in love with for a long time.
9. You meet your favourite pop artist/athlete.
10. You meet your doctor to hear some important information concerning your health.
11. You meet a dear friend for the last time.
12. You meet your pet after being away from him/her for several weeks.
13. You bump into your new neighbour in the elevator and notice how gorgeous he/she is.
14. You meet your partner to end your relationship.
15. You meet your partner knowing he/she is determined to break up with you.
16. Some people even talk to their houseplants – act out the scene.
17. You are trying to talk to God (or the higher power of your choice).
18. You are talking to your teacher in order to get a higher grade.
19. You see your new-born child for the first time.
20. You end an important business meeting with some foreign colleagues.
21. Now try to come up with some situations of your own that require a certain attitude, choice of language, behaviour etc.