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Work in pairs. Decide which of the following phrases are:

VERY FORMAL FORMAL NEUTRAL INFORMAL OF FAMILIAR

- 1 A lot of people like fish and chips. ^N Loads of people like fried chicken. ^{Fa}
/F Lots of people like curry. Many people enjoy hot dogs. ^{Fo}
A significant number of people prefer sandwiches. ^{VF}
- 2 Good to see you. / Hello. ^N Hi there. ^{Fa}
It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance. ^{VF} Pleased to meet you. ^{Fo}
- 3 I'd like ^{Fa} to introduce myself. My name's I'm - what's your name? ^{N-I}
VF May I introduce myself, I'm My name's - who are you? ^{Fa}
- 4 Do you feel like a drink? ^N Like a drink? / Want a drink? ^{Fa}
May I offer you a drink? ^{VF} Would you like me to get you a drink? ^{Fo}
- 5 Can I have tea, please? ^N I want tea, please. / Tea, please. ^{Fa}
I'd like a cup of tea, please. ^F Would it be possible for me to have some tea? ^{VF}
- 6 One should always try to be polite. > You should always try to be polite.
- 7 Give my best wishes to your ^{F, N} parents. Give my love to Jan, won't you? ^I
^{Fa} Oh, love to Jim, by the way. Remember me to your husband. ^N
Please give my best regards to your wife. ^{VF}
- Why might it sound strange if you greeted a close friend like this:
Good morning, how very pleasant to see you again!
or, if you greeted an elderly acquaintance like this:
Hi there, how's it going?
- What's the effect of using a very formal phrase in an informal situation?
Friend: I've brought you some coffee.
You: That's extremely considerate of you - thank you so much.
Or very familiar language in a formal situation?
Stranger on train: Would you like to have a look at my newspaper?
You: OK.