

Writing academic/ scientific e-mails

- **Discussion:**
 - Do you write emails in English?
 - On what occasions?
 - How often?
 - Who's the recipient?
 - What kind of language/ register do you usually use in your English emails?

- **Look at the two emails. How are they different? What are the reasons why they were written?**

From: 234567@mail.muni.cz

Subject: tomorrow

Hi teacher!

I cannot come to school tomorrow, 'cause I'm real sick. I'll do my presentation on Mammals next week.

See ya,

Tom Smiley

From: offthewall@email.com

Subject: Steven Bold, 3rd year student of Media and Communication, Monday seminar group, 9 a.m.

Good afternoon Mrs Crow,

I am very unhappy about the fact that I received F for my English exam. As a matter of fact, you are the only one who gave me such a bad mark, and now my distinction is in danger. When can I write the re-take? There are no more terms available, but I have to have it this semester, as I am very busy in summer.

Best regards,

Steven

Steven Bold

PR Assistant

Offthewall International

From: 54321@mail.muni.cz

Subject: Hello

Dear Mrs teacher,

I was not at school last Wednesday. Can you tell me what you did? And do I have to do any homework?

Robert Dark

- **Are those emails appropriate? Give arguments for/against**
- **Dos and Don'ts of academic/scientific email writing**
 Look at the phrases and categorize them into the things you should remember about and those you'd rather avoid doing
 - Use a title which is not an academic one
 - Have no reference to the attachment (the recipient will see it anyway)
 - Use your university email account for academic and professional correspondence
 - Leave out personal details
 - Start emails with "I want..." or "I need..."
 - Write a clear subject line
 - Write a greeting appropriate to the addressee
 - Omit greeting (the recipient knows that it's him/her that the message is being addressed to)
 - Have exclamation marks for something that is considered very important
 - Include your full name and contact information (if there is a need)
 - Write a detailed description of events preceding the situation discussed
 - Emphasize the conversational aspect
 - Keep messages as concise as possible

DOs	DON'Ts

- **Discuss what features those email parts should contain:**
<https://www.softchalkcloud.com/lesson/serve/MXv2iJS1bBtQCR/html>
 - Title of the email
 - Salutation
 - The beginning
 - The main body
 - The ending
 - Closing the email and signing

- **Read the text giving tips on how to write an effective email** (you will be given a copy in the lesson), **and complete the text with the right adjective**
- **Formal vs informal vocabulary:**
How would you change these words/expressions into more formal ones?

INFORMAL	FORMAL
Thanks	
Sorry for...	
Can you...	
Do you know...	
I can't...	
I don't want to...	

- **Put the strips of paper given to you by your teacher in two emails: a formal and a semi-formal one.**
- **Choose one of the following email messages sent from students to Prof. Janet Maceda; think about the ways to convey the same information in a more appropriate way.**

http://www4.ncsu.edu/~nmswishe/academic_email.pdf

Sources: (visited on February 10th, 2015)

http://www4.ncsu.edu/~nmswishe/academic_email.pdf

<https://www.softchalkcloud.com/>

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/email-writing>
elt.oup.com