

## 7 FORMALITY

This document provides additional materials relating to Chapter 7 of *Social English Power* by Peter Clarke. For more information, visit [SocialEnglishPower.com](http://SocialEnglishPower.com)

### PRACTICE 7.1

Passage A is the most formal. Passage B is the least formal.

### PRACTICE 7.2

	Passage A	Passage B	Passage C
1	an incident	this weird thing	something a bit unusual
2	facility	at work	in the factory
3	I was called by one of our machine operators	machine operator comes up to me	One of the operators called me
4	unusual sounds	weird noises	strange noises
5	ceased to function	just died on me	stopped working
6	On investigation, we found... this had been caused by	Off I go to check it out... we find	we investigated
7	large rat	whopping great rat	pretty big rat
8	lodged	stuck	jammed
9	the means of ingress	how on earth it got in there	how it got in

### PRACTICE 7.3

1. Passage A
2. Passage B
3. Passage A
4. Passage A or possibly C
5. Passage B or possibly C
6. Passage C
7. Passage B

**PRACTICE 7.4**

There are many possible answers, as discussed in the remainder of the chapter. Some examples:

- Verb tenses: A and C use past, B uses present. A also uses passive voice.
- Use of fillers: A has no fillers. B is rich in fillers (*just, like, you know, right?, so, get this*, etc). C uses a few fillers (*right?, anyway, so*).
- A uses the longest, most complex sentence structure. B uses the shortest, simplest sentences.

**PRACTICE 7.6**

There are too many possible answers to list here. The following verb + particle combinations form valid phrasal verbs:

	up	down	in	out	over	by	off	through	back	on
put	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
set	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
give	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
take	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
turn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
make	✓			✓	✓					
look	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
come	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
sit	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
stand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

**PRACTICE 7.7**

2. acting up
3. jump at
4. pans out
5. show up
6. pass it on

7. playing along
8. telling me off
9. veg out

### **PRACTICE 7.8**

1. asking after
2. back down
3. back up
4. bear with
5. blow over
6. tag along with
7. takes me back to
8. run out

### **PRACTICE 7.10**

1. I'm going to pay for your lunch.
2. ...the guy who attacked you?
3. ...company that they would connect up the gas tomorrow.
4. My sister has put on weight, so she has taken up a new diet.
5. I cut my finger with the knife while chopping onions for dinner. *Or*  
The knife cut my finger while **I was** chopping onions for dinner.

### **PRACTICE 7.10: SUGGESTED ANSWER**

Four of my best friends from high school recently got in touch and suggested we could have a get-together. It's not easy to find a time that's suitable for all of us, thanks to our busy schedules, but everyone was free yesterday evening, so we agreed on that. My home was the venue. The market provided some really nice chicken pieces, which, when

cooked with wine and garlic, should have made for [= resulted in] a delectable meal together. The cooking oil supply ran out halfway through, but luckily the neighbours had some spare, which was a real Godsend [see Chapter 4]. However, one of my guests is a vegetarian, which had slipped my mind [=I'd forgotten it], so this led me to dig out a recipe for an egg and tomato dish from an old notebook of mine. All in all, thanks in part to my success in the kitchen, the whole event came off [= had an overall result] really well and everyone had a whale of a time [= a great time].

### **PRACTICE 7.12**

Well, that's great. I'd really like to thank everyone for loads of fantastic ideas and input. I can see there's a lot of creativity amongst us! Hopefully the managers will actually let us [*no contraction here*] do some of these wacky ideas. Now, we'd better start thinking about what's the best way to whittle these suggestions down into a workable plan. So, let's take a break for coffee. It'd be great if you could take your own cup back to the kitchen and clean it afterwards; I'd really appreciate that, as otherwise I'd've [*used in speaking only*] had to do all the clearing up myself.

### **PRACTICE 7.13**

1. I've got...
2. Aaron's been...
3. Where've they been...
4. *No contraction*
5. *No contraction*
6. Helen's got to...

7. *No contraction*

8. *No contraction*

9. *No contraction*

10. My cousin's got more money than I have [*no contraction of I have*].

11. I've never seen...

### PRACTICE 7.14

The reductions shown in SMALL CAPS are used in speaking only. We don't write them like this.

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DAISY♀	Hey, Jerome! WHATCHA up to?*
JEROME♂	Oh Daisy, hi! Just finishing off my assignment. It was due yesterday, but I got an extension. I <b>should've</b> wrapped it up* ages ago, really.
DAISY	Well, at least <b>you've</b> got a teacher <b>who's</b> willing to give you an extension. <b>There's</b> no way* mine would. Anyway, WHEREYA going after this?
JEROME	Going out to grab a bite to eat.* DJA WANNA come along?
DAISY	Sure, <b>that'd</b> be cool. Actually my <b>sister's</b> here, too: can she join us?
JEROME	Of course, no problem. But <b>why's</b> she here? <b>She's not</b> [ <i>or She isn't</i> ] a student, is she?
DAISY	<b>She's</b> working as a library assistant. Just started last month.
JEROME	Is that her, over there by the new book display? ( <i>Jerome points</i> )
DAISY	Yes, <b>that's</b> her. WHY YA staring at her like that?
JEROME	Well... <b>she's</b> quite a feast for the eyes,* <b>isn't she?</b>

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**PRACTICE 7.15**

1. Direct
2. Indirect
3. Indirect
4. Direct
5. Indirect (we don't know who said it on TV)
6. Indirect
7. Direct

**PRACTICE 7.16: SUGGESTED ANSWER**

*Explaining to your best friend*

The meeting planning was a disaster. First of all, the team leader gave us only 2 days' notice to arrange it, because she decided to make some urgent changes to the project. The secretary didn't actually book the room—she only checked the availability—so when we showed up at the hotel, the events manager could only find some dingy little back room for us. On top of that, John and Mary didn't get the invitation to the meeting, so they showed up late. When we asked for some tables and chairs and a projector, this daft hotel assistant called Manuele kept bringing the wrong stuff—seemed like he didn't know what he was doing. Worst of all, you know Reuben♂ is Jewish, right? So we ordered kosher lunch, but the catering manager laid on (= provided) pork. Actually, once we finally got down to work, the meeting went really well, and we made great progress with the project.

*Explaining to your boss*

Unfortunately the planning for the meeting did not go smoothly. There were only 2 days available to plan it, because of an urgent change to the project. Due to a miscommunication (= misunderstanding), the meeting room did not get booked in advance, so we could only get a small, uncomfortable room at the hotel. Also, some colleagues were not aware of the plans for the meeting, so we made a delayed start. There were some problems with the hotel services; it was hard to communicate with the staff to get the equipment we needed, and the lunch was unsuitable for our Jewish staff. However, despite all the difficulties, the meeting was actually very productive and we made excellent progress.

**PRACTICE 7.17**

1. *Hedged*
2. I guess there's a good chance it could rain soon.
3. I'm concerned the stress might make you sick.
4. *Hedged*
5. *Hedged*
6. I'd suggest not putting the eggs at the bottom of your shopping bag, just in case they get crushed.
7. *Hedged*
8. *Hedged*

**PRACTICE 7.19**

2. *Direct*: You should change the format to landscape. *Indirect*: How about changing the format to landscape?

3. *Direct:* You really need to get a new suit. That one is pretty threadbare. *Indirect:* That suit might be a bit past its best. Have you considered replacing it?
4. *Direct:* I think you need to get yourself into a gym and shed some pounds. *Indirect:* Maybe losing a little weight might do you some good. Thought about joining a gym?
5. *Direct:* You oughtn't to replace your phone this year; it's still good for a while yet. *Indirect:* If I were you, I wouldn't get a new phone just yet. I think the old one's still ok for a while longer.
6. *Direct:* The boss has got to get more staff. We are so overstretched here. *Indirect:* I wonder if the boss would consider hiring some more people, to help ease the workload?

### **PRACTICE 7.20**

Mabel: exclamation, then gaining sympathy

Dennis: exclamation

Shelley: gaining sympathy

Hugh: exclamation

Adrian: keeping attention, then gaining sympathy (he feels upset at Hugh's suggestion)

### **PRACTICE 7.21**

2. She started her speech, and at first, everything was fine.
3. She had finished the introduction, but her main speech was still ongoing.
4. While she was still talking, all the lights went out...
5. Everybody jumped to their feet, yelling and running around. [*Keep the -ing form here, because this is not the main clause of the sentence.*]
6. But she didn't care; in fact, she was still carrying on as if nothing had happened.



**PRACTICE 7.22**

So we were at home on Friday night: Maureen was in the kitchen cleaning up, and I was in the lounge watching TV. Suddenly there was this massive scream from the kitchen, and I went in like a shot. I said, "What's the matter?" and she said "Look in the fridge!" So I opened the fridge, and there was this scorpion just sitting on the food. Well I'm *[keep present tense, because this is always true]* petrified of scorpions too, so I slammed the fridge door on it and I went out of the kitchen pretty fast.

**PRACTICE 7.25**

1. *Appropriate*
2. *Too informal. More appropriately:* The whole staff and I are delighted at this tremendous outcome.
3. *Too informal. More appropriately:* It's very disappointing that we lost this project. The proposal was not as good as it should have been.
4. *Appropriate*

**PRACTICE 7.26**

1. Looks like I could **be on for** (= event likely to happen) a promotion.
2. Seems like the bonus might be getting cut this year. *Or* There's a chance the bonus is going to be cut this year.
3. Looks like you ought to consider changing your car, Dad.
4. There's a good possibility our new product will be ready for launch in April.
5. There's a chance I may need to take extended leave next year.

**PRACTICE 7.27: SUGGESTED ANSWER****Task 1**

Actually, [filler] I've [contraction] been considering taking up\* [phrasal verb] the guitar. Cos, you know, [fillers] I remember you said you enjoy singing karaoke, right? There might have been [hedging] a story about how, once when you were at the karaoke club, this [narrative device] girl in the next room was singing really badly. How cool was the way you described it? [rhetorical q] You went [substitute verb] like, "so we've [simple tense] just finished singing *Memories*, and then suddenly there's this noise like a vacuum cleaner coming from next door". The description given by you was quite amusing [feelings]. Anyway, it would be kind of [softener] cool [slang] to do some songs together. It may be that [possible events] we could collaborate [over-formal verb; replace with phrasal verb] with others [indirect reference] to start a band someday.

**Task 2**

Actually, I've been **thinking of** taking up\* the guitar. Cos, you know, I remember you said you enjoy singing karaoke, right? **You told me this story** about how, once when you were at the karaoke club, this girl in the next room was singing really badly. How cool was the way you **told** it? You went like, "so we've just finished singing *Memories*, and then suddenly there's this noise like a blocked vacuum cleaner coming from next door". **The way you said it really cracked me up** [= made me laugh]. Anyway, it would be kind of cool to do some songs together. ~~It may be that~~ [no need for hedging] we could **join up/ hook up** with **some other guys** to start a band someday.