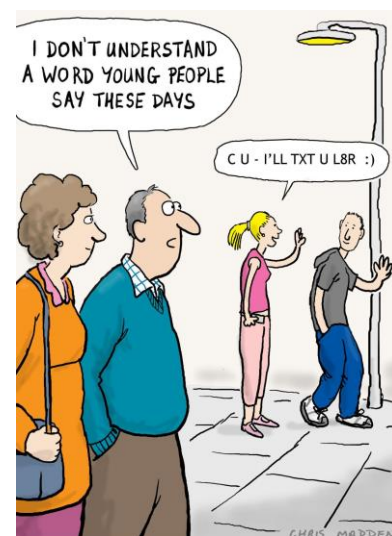# Worksheet 4.1 Introduction to Sociolinguistics

"I hate to be a bother, young man, but do you speak emoji?"

CartoonStock.com

What does Sociolinguistics mean?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOUNG PEOPLE SAY THESE DAYS

C U - I'LL TXT U L8R :)

CHRIS MADDEN

CartoonStock.com

Activity 4.1.1 Highlight the words below that YOU would most associate with this area? Why have you chosen these words?

Accent	Age	Change	Code Switching	Community
Culture	Education	Ethnicity	Family	Gender
Geography	Identity	Immigration	Language Variety	Register
Religion	Setting	Slang	Social Class	Urbanisation

Activity 4.1.2 – Match up these common terms and definitions in Sociolinguistics

1. Accent	A. The unique characteristics of the language of an individual
2. Creole	B. The way people use language in different situations e.g. formally or informally
3. Dialect	C. A simplified language which arises for the purposes of communication between two social groups, one of which is in a more dominant position than the other. The less dominant group is the one that creates this language.

4. Idiolect	D. Informal words and phrases more typically associated with speech than writing. They can be related to a specific group of people or place.
5. Language	E. A variety of a language that may have different but mutually intelligible pronunciation, vocabulary or phrases from the standard language
6. Pidgin	F. The words and expressions used and understood by a large group of people
7. Register	G. A stable natural language developed from the simplifying and mixing of different languages. It is spoken as a native tongue.
8. Regional Dialect	H. Technical terminology or characteristic idioms of a particular group
9. Slang	I. A variety of the language associated with speakers living in a particular area
10. Jargon	J. Regional phonological or phonetic distinctions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Activity 4.1.3 – Socio-Linguistics Terminology

Complete the sentence using the correct terminology from above to describe what is being said.

1. I would never say 'How's it going?' to my school principal as that's not the correct _____ to use in polite conversation.
2. Lol is one of the most common _____ terms in electronic communication that has now also moved into general speech.
3. My boss always tells us that it is best practice to think outside the box and give 110%. I hate corporate _____.
4. Whether you say Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? Or Conas atá tú? Or Cad é mar atá tú? depends on which _____ of Irish that you speak. Is it Connacht, Munster or Ulster Irish?

5. Chinglish or Chinese _____ English has only 700 words. It was used for over three centuries by Chinese traders in the Cantonese region of China and never developed into a creole language.

Language and Register

Register means the level of formality that you might use in a conversation or text.

- How do you decide what register is appropriate to use?

- Why is it important to know the correct register to use?

- What registers do you use

Activity 4.1.4 There are 5 registers of language listed below Complete the Crossword with the correct term.

Casual　　　*Consultative*　　　*Formal*　　　*Frozen*　　　*Intimate*

Across

3. Language that is always the same e.g. The Lord's Prayer

4. Language between friends. Word choice general and not specific
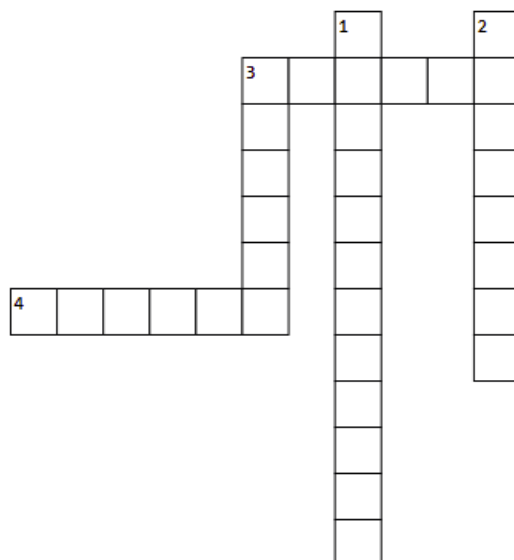
Down

1. Less formal standard language used in conversation

2. Language between close family or friends

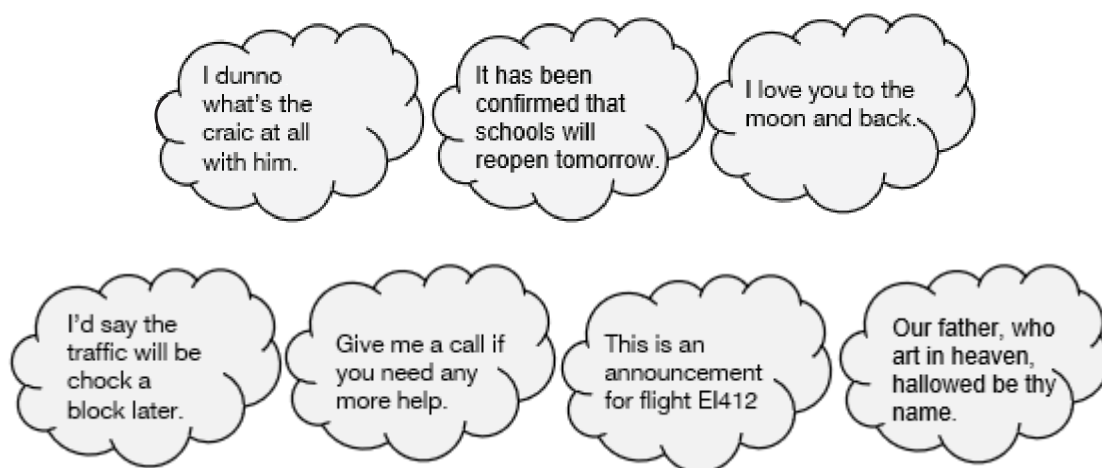**3.** Standard language with specific word order and complete sentences

The 5 Registers of Language

Activity 4.1.5 - Which register do you think the following sentences are in? Using the terms from the previous exercise, write your answer beside each speech bubble.

I dunno what's the craic at all with him.

It has been confirmed that schools will reopen tomorrow.

I love you to the moon and back.

I'd say the traffic will be chock a block later.

Give me a call if you need any more help.

This is an announcement for flight EI412

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Activity 4.1.6 - Register in other languages

In some languages there are styles or registers that must be adhered to in certain social situations. For example, in the MFL languages studied in Irish schools, there is a distinction between the familiar or informal 'you' (speaking to a friend or family member) and the polite or formal 'you' (speaking to someone in a higher position to you or in less personal encounters).

In groups, complete the following table translating the formal and informal word for 'you' singular (1 person).

Use the collective knowledge of the class first before using an online translator!

	French	German	Italian	Polish	Spanish	Russian
Informal 'You'						
Polite/Formal 'You'						

B - These languages might also have to consider differentiating between singular/plural/masculine/feminine within the formal/informal register. Can you explain further and give an example?

_____

_____

C. Are there any other languages that you know of that also have this differentiation? Give an example below:

_____

_____

Activity 4.1.7 – Same but Different

Create a list of words/phrases in English and any other language(s) you study or know, to highlight the different register for the same thing. When is it appropriate to use them?

English – loo/toilet, put up with/tolerate

Irish – Le grá/Is mise le meas (letter endings -with love/yours respectfully)

French – Un mec/un homme (a guy/man)

German tschüss/auf wiedersehen (Goodbye)

Spanish – Querido/estimado (Greeting - dear)

English informal	English Formal		