

Casual Versus Formal Speech

Casual speech has certain characteristics that distinguish it from formal speech. These are the main ones:

A. Sentences are shortened and grammar is simplified.

sounds like:

1. Do you want to go? "Wanna go?"
2. You'd better do it. "You better do it."

B. Speakers are less careful about pronouncing every consonant.

sounds like:

1. probably "proibly"
2. I don't know "I dunno"
3. remember "member"
4. going "goin"
5. until "til"
6. because "cuz"

C. Slang is more acceptable.

becomes:

1. I need five dollars. "I need five bucks."
2. I don't have any money. "I'm broke."

Rules and Patterns of Casual Speech

Formal, Careful Speech	Informal, Relaxed Speech	Examples
You	ya	I'll call ya. See ya.
because	'cuz	I did it 'cuz I wanted to. I'm tired 'cuz I worked all day. I don't know I dunno I dunno why. I dunno what to do.
let me	lemme	Lemme do it. Lemme help you. Lemme talk to him.
give me	gimme	Gimme a call. Gimme a break! Can you gimme a minute?

did you...? ?	joo	Joo call me? Why joo do it? Joo go out last night
do you want to...?	wanna...?	Wanna go out? Wanna dance? What do you wanna do?
have got to.....	gotta	I gotta go. You gotta do it.
should've would've could've must've	Shoulda woulda coulda musta	You shoulda told me. It woulda been nice. We coulda come. You musta seen it.
shouldn't have wouldn't have couldn't have	shouldna wouldna couldna	You shouldna done that. I woundna known. It couldna happened.
going to	gonna	I'm gonna go. It's gonna rain. What are you gonna do?
what do you...?	wadda you...?	Whadda you want? Whadda you doing? Whadda you think?
a lot of	a lotta	That's a lotta money. I've got a lotta friends.
kind of	kinda	It's kinda hot. What kinda car is that?
out of	adda	Get adda here. I'm adda money. You're adda your mind. meaning: You're crazy
go to	goddu	I go to work. Let's go to a concert.
yes	yeah yup	Yeah. It's good. Yup. I did it.
no nope	Nope.	I'm not going. Nope. That's not right
-ing	in'	What are you doin'? Nothin' much.