

**VE300 Summer 2017**  
**Lecture Notes**  
**Week 2**

# Parts of an Email:

## Form & Style

- Parts of an email
- Visual appearance
- Audience & tone

## Basic Structure

- Opening
- Main body of the text
- Closing

## Netiquette

- Email vs. Text messages
- Formal vs. informal

Search Clutter (Ctrl+E)  Current Folder ▾



Sales Team

10

8/29/2015

TechExpo 2015 Promotional Materials Proof

 TechExpo 2015 - Bonni...  
372 KB

X



Favorite Group Calendars

By Date \* Newest ↓

#### Thursday

Thu 10:28 AM

Stay on top of your email. We've

▲ Three Weeks Ago

8/29/2015

Hello Team, I hope you are getting

8/29/2015

Hello Team, As we all know,

8/29/2015

Hello Contoso Employees,

8/29/2015

It is with great pleasure that I

8/29/2015

Hello Everyone, It's time for our

8/29/2015

It has come to my attention that

8/29/2015

Hello fellow Contoso employees, it

1

C...

Application for Accounts Manager position (Ref # 4452)

 Caitlin Englot- Resume- Accounts Manager (Ref # 4452).docx (12 KB)

Blog: [www.internships.com.au](http://www.internships.com.au)

## **Greeting:**

Dear...

Hi...

Hello...

Hey...

## **Salutation:**

Mr.

Ms.

Prof.

Dr.

Etc.

## **Ending:**

Sincerely,

Best regards,

Kind regards,

Regards,

Best,

Technical writing in the workplace:  
**COPE** skills required

Clarity

Organization

Precision

Economy

- 1. Subject line**
- 2. Opening**
- 3. Body**
- 4. Closing**

## Subject Line:

Poor subject lines	Improved subject lines
Staff meeting	Staff meeting on May 12
Important!	Project deadline revision
Travel plans	Travel plans for annual conference



# Opening:

Purpose  
Audience

## Writing to someone for the first time:

- to identify yourself & connect through a mutual contact
- *My name is X and I am a [job title] at [company name]. I got your contact information from Y, and I would like to inquire about Z.*

# Opening:

**Purpose  
Audience**

**Writing to someone you have exchanged emails already:**

- **to make reference to a previous exchange**
  - *Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. Let me respond to your feedback point by point.*
- **to state why you are writing**
  - *As agreed in our phone conversation, I will send you a draft of our agenda by Friday, Sept. 16.*

- **Subject line:** Summarize the main idea in a few key words.
- **Opening:** Present the main idea in a general way.
- **Body:** Explain the main idea using headings, bulleted lists, and other high-skim techniques when appropriate.
- **Closing:** May include
  - (1) action information, dates, or deadlines
  - (2) a summary of the message
  - (3) a closing thought

# Closing Line:

## Purpose :

- **to repeat a question**
  - *Could you bring the report to tomorrow's meeting?*
- **to make a reference to a future event**
  - *I look forward to seeing you at the conference next week.*
- **to offer help or restate the main message**
  - *If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 12345678.*
  - *Once again, we need to resolve this with your help by this Friday.*

# Email Tone



## Email Tone

1. It worked! The new process is better than we had dreamed.
2. You will be pleased to know that the new process is more effective than we had expected.

**Use Tone to Build Goodwill**

1. Submit your answer in one week.
2. We would appreciate your answer by the Nov. 15 deadline.

1. My attached report is thorough, and I'm sure that it will be essential.
2. The attached report contains details of the purchasing options that I hope you will find useful.
3. I just now received the shipment we ordered six months ago. I'm sending it back — we can't use it now. Thanks a lot!
4. I am returning the shipment we ordered on March 12. Unfortunately, it arrived too late for us to be able to use it.



## Use Tone to Build Goodwill

- ✓ Be respectful, not demanding.
- ✓ Be modest, not arrogant.
- ✓ Be polite, not sarcastic.

**Causal**



Standard  
Neutral



Formal

- Most common between friends
- Text-message style; is closest to speech
- Contains personal news, humor
- Lots of abbreviations, everyday expressions
- Readers more tolerant of typos & vagueness

**Causal**



Standard  
Neutral



Formal

*Hey Tom,*

*Sorry I'm not free 4 the mtg on Fri. Pls send me a copy of the minutes? I'll update Samantha asap. So sorry again. Will make sure to show up for the next mtg. BTW, good news about ur interview.*

*TTYL, Jane*

# IM abbreviations to avoid in workplace email

U

b4

gr8

CU

NP

TC

Thx

Pls

IC

Rgds

Causal



**Standard  
Neutral**



Formal

- Most common in work emails
- Language is more personal
- Sentences are short
- Use of contractions (e.g., *I'm*, *I've*)
- Language is simple, clear, and direct

Causal



**Standard  
Neutral**



Formal

*Hi Tom,*

*I am sorry I can't make it on Friday. Could you send me a copy of the minutes?*

*I'll let Samantha know I won't be there. Again, my apologies. I will make sure to attend the next meeting.*

Thanks,  
Jane

# Abbreviations often used in workplace email

ASAP:	as soon as possible
AKA:	also known as
BTW:	By the way
Dept.:	department
FYI	For your information
PS:	post-script
EOB:	end of business day
RE:	regarding
RSVP:	repondez si'il vous plait (please reply)
i.e. ( <i>id est</i> )..	I am going to explain what I mean in different words
e.g. ( <i>exempli gratia</i> )...	I am going to give an example

Causal



Standard  
Neutral



**Formal**

- Traditional business letter
- Ideas are presented politely & carefully
- Fixed expressions & long words
- Grammar & punctuation are important
- Subject matter is serious (e.g. a complaint)



Causal



Standard  
Neutral



**Formal**

*Dear Tom,*

***I am afraid** I will not be able to attend the meeting on Friday. **I was wondering** if you could send me a copy of the minutes? I will write to Samantha as well to inform her I will not be there.*

*Once again, please accept my apologies. I assure you that I will be at the next meeting.*

Sincerely,  
Jane

# Emoticons

**Attitudes about emoticons in workplace email Communication are **conflicted**.**

**Friendly or immature? ?**

**Avoid emoticons in professional emails.**



# How to express emotions in email?

## Courtesy words & polite phrases:

- *Thank you*
- *I would appreciate your input by Friday.*
- *Your advice would be very helpful.*
- *I will be glad to assist if needed.*
- *We are happy to take part in this project.*

# Bad news?

- *Unfortunately, the deadline is not flexible.*
- *We are sorry to have to cancel today's meeting due to the power outage in the building.*
- *Due to a schedule conflict, I regret having to decline your invitation.*

## E-mail “netiquette”:

- Never send angry messages by e-mail.
- Use full caps only to emphasize a single word or two. Putting the whole message in caps is considered as rude as SHOUTING.
- Send people only messages they need. Send copies to your boss only if he or she has asked you to.
- One topic per mail or related questions only
- When responding to a message, include the part of the original message that is essential so that the reader understands your follow-up.

## **Email writing:**

- **Easy to read**
- **Accurate**
- **Appropriate tone & style**

A decorative horizontal band with a blue and white wavy, geometric pattern, resembling a stylized wave or a series of overlapping circles.

**Thank you!**

[www.umji.sjtu.edu.cn](http://www.umji.sjtu.edu.cn)