

# Informal speech

## Explanation

When you speak to a friend, you probably use **informal speech**. You might use informal words and phrases and **shortened forms**. You probably use short or **incomplete sentences** and **exclamations**, or you **leave out words**.

**Example** Hey, did you see that?

Terrible, isn't it?

**question tag**

What a mess!

Should complain really.

'We' missed out

Well, I mean ...

**ellipsis** (incomplete)

## Activities

**1** Read what these people say about their disastrous holidays. Choose **three** letters from the box and write them in the **squares** to label the features of **informal speech** used by each person.

**A shortened forms**  
(I'm, you're, it's)

**B question tags**  
(It is, isn't it?)

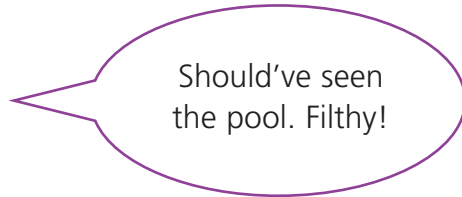
**C ellipsis:**  
incomplete idea  
(missing words)

**D exclamations**  
(What a mess!)

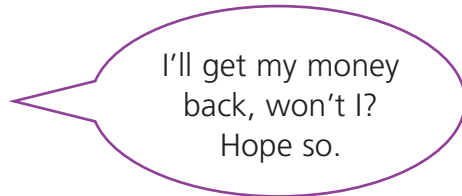
**E speaks to the audience**  
(Did you hear?)



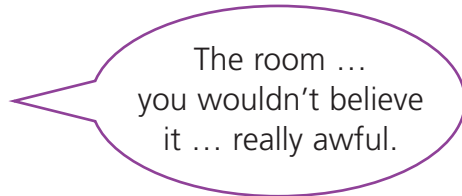
Mr Paul



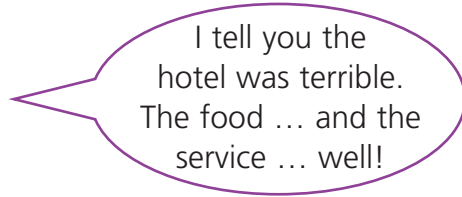
Miss Elton



Mr Patel



Dr Archer



Sometimes you might use features of informal speech when writing a story or play. In a dialogue between two characters, informal speech can show that they are close friends, or that they are in a more relaxed setting.