

# Writing in Standard English

Standard and Non-Standard English are different:

Standard English follows spelling, punctuation and grammar rules.

It's a more formal type of English.

Non-Standard English doesn't follow formal spelling, punctuation and grammar rules.

It's a more informal type of English.

# Writing in Standard English

People sometimes use non-Standard English when they speak.

You need to use Standard English in your writing.

You are expected to write in Standard English in all subjects and you will lose marks in your GCSE exams if you don't do this.

Using Standard English makes your writing clear and easy to understand.

Using non-Standard English can make your writing more friendly, so you might use it to write to a friend. However, using non-Standard English might make people think you can't use SPaG correctly, so it's best to stick to Standard English for most work.

*Here are some examples of non-Standard English we sometimes see in Millthorpe students' writing...*

## TASK:

Can you correct these examples of non-Standard English

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1. I am not sure.
2. It was great.
3. I was being silly.
4. He was sitting.
5. I'm really happy.
6. We haven't got any.
7. He would have won.
8. We were going.

Now let's see these common non-Standard English words being used correctly in a sentence:

1. We aren't sure.
2. You were great!
3. Tom has been silly today.
4. The dog sat by the fire.
5. "Sir, I don't feel well!"

Now let's see these common non-Standard English words being used correctly in a sentence:

6. There are none left.

7. All of the students did their homework on time.\*\*

8. He was going.

# “are” vs “our”

People sometimes get confused between the use of “are” and “our”.

Remember:

“Are” is a verb.

It is a present tense form of the verb “to be”.

Spreadsheets are a useful way to present data.

We are going to learn about the use of Non-Standard English today.

# “are” vs “our”

People sometimes get confused between the use of “are” and “our”.

Remember:

“Our” is a possessive adjective.  
It means “belonging to us”.

There are eight planets in our solar system.

We have to do our homework on time.



# How can you say the following in Standard or more formal English?

1. At night / In the evening...
2. At the time / In those times / days...
3. Pardon?
4. What do you mean?
5. I didn't do it.
6. They didn't do anything.
7. We're learning something about...
8. What are you doing? Nothing!