

Three Pragmatics Puzzles

Each group of words below can be arranged to form two utterances. One utterance is more formal than the other. Fill in each blank with one of the words in the group. Use each word only once.

Here is an example of a request that is more formal, followed by one that is less formal:

More formal: I'm sorry to trouble you, but would you be able to give me a ride into town?

Less formal: Could you give me a lift?

Now see if you can complete the following greetings (saying hello), apologies (saying sorry), and partings (saying good-bye).

Greetings

today up hi you
what's are hello how

More formal: _____, Ms. Smith. _____?

Less formal: _____, Sam. _____?

Apologies

happen about my sorry I
fault won't apologize again

More formal: _____. It _____.

Less formal: _____ that. _____.

Partings

talking later was you see
nice good-bye it ya to

More formal: _____, Mr. Jones. _____.

Less formal: _____, Charlie!

Answers to *THE LIGHTER SIDE*

THREE PRAGMATICS PUZZLES

Greetings
More formal: Hello, Ms. Smith. How are you today?
Less formal: Hi, Sam. What's up?

Apologies
More formal: I apologize. It won't happen again.
Less formal: Sorry about that. My fault.

Partings
More formal: Good-bye, Mr. Jones. It was nice talking to you.
Less formal: See ya later, Charlie!