

Exercise walk-through

Word choice, comparisons, and syntax ■ 8.3

eXercise

You must be able to

- explain how pronoun choice includes or excludes a reader
- describe the effect of a rhetorical question
- explain what a shift in register does mid-passage
- link a stylistic move to the audience it targets

Method — Pronouns position

“We” enrolls the reader in the writer’s position before any argument is made; “they” places a group outside it. A single pronoun can do more assigning than a paragraph of description.

Method — Rhetorical questions

A question the writer answers themselves controls the reader's next thought. One left unanswered implies that no answer is needed — which is a claim, not a question.

Method — Register shifts

Dropping from formal to plain speech marks a moment as sincere or urgent; the opposite marks it as authoritative. Where the shift falls tells you what the writer wants weighted.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what “we” does to a reader.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

it enrols the reader in the writer's position **B1** before any argument has been made **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what an unanswered rhetorical question implies.

Solution 2.2

Method: Rhetorical questions

Worked steps

that the answer is obvious and needs no argument **B1**, which makes it a claim rather than a question **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A formal passage drops into plain speech for one sentence.

- (a) State the likely effect.
- (b) State how you would link it to purpose.

Solution 2.3

Method: Register shifts

Worked steps

(a) it marks the sentence as sincere or urgent **B1**. (b) say what is emphasised there and why the writer wants that point weighted **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

“They” applied to a group of people mainly

- A** includes them in the writer’s position
- B** places them outside it
- C** has no effect
- D** signals concession

Solution 3.1

Method: Pronouns position

A includes them in the writer's position

B places them outside it



C has no effect

D signals concession

Worked steps

B. the third person places the group outside the shared position.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A rhetorical question left unanswered functions as

A a genuine enquiry

B a claim

C a qualification

D a transition

Solution 3.2

Method: Rhetorical questions

A a genuine enquiry

B a claim



C a qualification

D a transition

Worked steps

B. it asserts that no answer is needed.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A speech uses “we” throughout and switches to “you” in its final paragraph.

- (a) State what the switch does.
- (b) Explain why it might come at the end.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) it separates the audience from the writer and addresses them directly **B1**. (b) the shared “we” has built agreement **B1**, and the final “you” places the responsibility to act on the listener **B1**.