Professional English in Use

Engineering

Technical English for Professionals

Mark Ibbotson



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Introduction

Who is this book for?

Professional English in Use Engineering presents around 1,500 of the most important technical words and phrases in English that engineers and engineering technicians need for their work. The vocabulary has been carefully chosen to include:

- terms that are essential in <u>all</u> fields of engineering for example, all engineers need to discuss dimensions and tolerances, know the names of common materials, and describe how components are fitted and fixed together
- language for discussing and applying key engineering concepts for example, stress and strain, work and power, and fluid dynamics
- more specific language for mechanical, electrical and civil/structural engineering.

This book is for **professional engineers** who are already familiar with engineering concepts and for **students of engineering**. Language teachers who teach technical English will also find the explanations helpful. The level of English used is **intermediate to upper-intermediate** (Levels **B1** to **B2** in the Common European Framework).

You can use the book on your own for self-study, or with a teacher in the classroom, one-to-one or in groups.

Professional English in Use Engineering is part of the Professional English in Use series from Cambridge University Press. More information on this series is available at www.cambridge.org/elt

How is the book organized?

The book has 45 units which are grouped into nine themes. Each theme covers an important area of engineering such as Materials technology, Static and dynamic principles and Mechanisms. Each unit has two pages. The left-hand page explains key words and phrases and shows you how they are used in context. The right-hand page has exercises which allow you to practise the new language and improve your understanding of how it is used. The Over to you activities at the end of each unit (see opposite) are discussion and/or writing activities.

There are 13 **appendices** which provide the professional and student engineer with a reference of English terms used in key engineering activities. For example, language for describing three-dimensional drawings and shapes, the names for the chemical elements and terms for sensing, measuring and regulating devices.

The **answer key** at the back of the book contains answers to all the exercises on the righthand pages. Most of the exercises have questions with only one correct answer.

The **index** lists all the key words and expressions presented in the book, together with the numbers of the units in which they are presented. It also shows how the terms are pronounced.

The left-hand page

This page presents the key words and phrases for each topic in **bold**. Key vocabulary is introduced using short texts, scripts, diagrams and tables. Many vocabulary items are illustrated. Each unit is divided into sections (usually A and B) and each section has a specific title.

Some sections include **notes** on the key language – for example, explanations of words that have different meanings in technical English and in everyday English, and references to other units where related topics or words are covered in more detail.

The right-hand page

The exercises on the right-hand page allow you to check your understanding of the words and expressions presented on the left-hand page, and to practise using them. There is a wide range of different types of exercise: for example, short texts, gap fills, matching exercises, crosswords and notes to complete.

'Over to you' sections

An important feature of *Professional English in Use Engineering* is the **Over to you** section at the end of each unit. These sections give you the opportunity to use the words and expressions you have just learned, and to relate them to your own work or studies.

How to use the book for self-study

You can work through the book unit by unit, or use the **contents** page at the front of the book to choose specific units that are relevant to you.

Read the texts on the left-hand page and concentrate on the key words and phrases in **bold**. If you find technical terms that are not in bold, look at the index to see if they are explained in another unit. You can also look at the index to help you learn how to pronounce new words. Do the exercises on the right-hand page, then check your answers in the key. If you have made mistakes, go back to the left-hand page and read the texts again. Do the **Over to you** section. Try to use as many new words as possible. It is best to discuss your ideas out loud and to record yourself if you can.

How to use the book in a classroom

Teachers can use *Professional English in Use Engineering* to provide a framework for an 'English for Engineering' course.

The illustrations can often be used as a warm-up activity or as a talking point during the lesson. Sometimes, the left-hand page may be used as the basis for a presentation, by either the teacher or the learners. Learners can do the exercises individually or in small groups. They can then compare answers with other groups or in a whole-class feedback session. The **Over to you** sections can be used as a starting point for role plays, discussions and presentation activities, or adapted to out-of-class projects.

This book is also a perfect complement to *Cambridge English for Engineering* which focuses on communication skills for engineers. More information on this title is available at www.cambridge.org/elt/englishforengineering

