PEARSON EDUCATION PUBLICATION SPECIFICATION

TECHNICAL ENGLISH

Four-Level Professional Workplace Curriculum & Specialised Lexicon Architecture

ENGINEERING • INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY • MANUFACTURING • ELECTRONICS

COURSE ARCHITECTURE & DOMAIN SCOPE

> **Technical English** is an authoritative, four-level curriculum published by **Pearson**. It is engineered specifically to bridge the acute linguistic gap separating general English language paths from the highly rigorous, specialized communication demands of high-growth global technical domains. The core course architecture scales systematically across a diverse matrix of vocational disciplines, explicitly servicing professional pipelines inside **engineering, manufacturing, electronic design, mechanical maintenance, civil construction, and information technology systems**.

CEFR CALIBRATION & ENTRY PATHWAYS

The program contains four definitive tiers, enabling engineers and corporate technicians to enter directly at their verified benchmark alignment and progress fluidly through structural technical milestones:

- **Level 1 (CEFR Band A2–B1):** Core foundational workplace elements, tool classification, and standard safety imperatives.
- **Level 2 (CEFR Band B1):** Routine systems operation, physical diagnostic metrics, and structural maintenance procedures.
- **Level 3 (CEFR Band B1–B2):** Complex operational processes, analytical problem resolution, and technical component specifications.
- **Level 4 (CEFR Band B2):** Enterprise systems validation, precision project management controls, and quality assurance auditing metrics.

Level 1 Blueprint — Foundations of the Technical Workplace (CEFR: A2–B1)

CORE TARGET DOMAIN	SPECIALISED LEXICAL UNITS	FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCY
Materials & Components	Steel, aluminum, polymers, copper, composite layers, fasteners, brackets, structural rivets.	Identifying and categorizing basic manufacturing inventory; articulating basic raw physical material requirements.
Tools & Equipment	Spanners, callipers, dynamic multimeters, torque wrenches, micro-oscilloscopes, safety guards.	Requesting specialized manual tools on active production lines; describing tool availability to shopfloor teams.
Workplace Safety & Signs	Hazards, high-voltage warnings, toxic corridors, protective equipment (PPE), emergency isolation vents.	Reading safety layout plates; issuing immediate verbal safety instructions to engineering teams during standard check-ins.

Level 2 Blueprint — Operational Systems & Maintenance (CEFR: B1)

CORE TARGET DOMAIN	SPECIALISED LEXICAL UNITS	FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCY
Processes & Procedures	Assembling, calibrating arrays, structural soldering, systematic casting, forging, routine testing.	Explaining sequential manufacturing or software assembly steps; drafting simple chronological workflows.
Measurements & Tolerances	Millimeters, structural microns, pressure pascals, thermal metrics, tolerance variances, precise calibration limits.	Reporting physical metric readings accurately; confirming whether data points fall inside operational thresholds.
Troubleshooting Basics	System failure, circuit short, leaks, blockages, diagnostic error lines, faulty relays.	Stating a mechanical or network error clearly to support desks; logging basic error tickets in an online dashboard.

Level 3 Blueprint — Applied Technology & Advanced Troubleshooting (CEFR: B1–B2)

CORE TARGET DOMAIN	SPECIALISED LEXICAL UNITS	FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCY
Technical Specifications	Tensile yield strength, electronic conductivity parameters, data throughput, storage latency metrics.	Analyzing hardware datasheet layouts; comparing component options to meet system project constraints.
Systems Interface	Pneumatic logic loops, hydraulic valves, data routing gateways, programmable logic controllers (PLCs).	Describing complex interactions across physical machinery layers and automated software interfaces.
Root Cause Analysis	Corrosion degradation, unexpected voltage spikes, capacity bottlenecks, structural fatigue micro-cracks.	Investigating failure incidents; writing detailed engineering logs outlining the root structural issue.

Level 4 Blueprint — Enterprise Quality, Strategy & Validation (CEFR: B2)

CORE TARGET DOMAIN	SPECIALISED LEXICAL UNITS	FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCY
Quality Control & Auditing	Six Sigma standards, deviation bounds, structural compliance certificates, rigorous load testing cycles.	Defending systems optimization actions to quality assurance directors; outlining rigorous auditing steps.
IT Infrastructure & Scale	Hypervisor partitions, virtual machine layouts, GPU hardware passthrough channels, server data cluster arrays.	Explaining virtualization architecture deployments; justifying hardware configurations to engineering stakeholders.
Project Management	Milestone resource allocation, project bottlenecks, technical risk assessment, deployment scoping fields.	Leading engineering project retro briefs; negotiating technical deadlines across cross-functional infrastructure teams.

How to Use This Appendix

This appendix adds practice exercises, phrase banks, study plans and reference notes aligned with the main guide. Work through one section per study session and review your notes weekly.

Extended Study Material

The following sections were prepared by Mubashir Mehdi for LifeWithBooks to supplement this guide with additional explanations, examples and practice. Work through them after reading the main chapters.

English for the Technical Workplace

Technical English is a four-level course designed for students and professionals working in engineering, manufacturing, electronics, mechanics, construction and information technology. Published by Pearson, it bridges the gap between general English courses and the specialised language demands of technical careers.

Each level corresponds roughly to a CEFR band: Level 1 covers A2-B1, Level 2 covers B1, Level 3 covers B1-B2, and Level 4 covers B2. This means learners can enter at their current proficiency and progress systematically.

Core Content and Skills

Units are organized around technical topics such as materials and components, tools and equipment, processes and procedures, measurements, safety, quality control, troubleshooting and project management. Within each topic, learners develop vocabulary for naming and describing parts, explaining how things work, giving instructions, reporting problems and writing technical documents.

Authentic reading texts include equipment manuals, technical specifications, safety notices, process descriptions and engineering reports. Listening activities feature workplace dialogues, telephone calls and short technical presentations.

Practical Communication Focus

The course places strong emphasis on practical communication: describing components and their functions, explaining sequences and processes, comparing alternatives, writing reports and emails, and giving short presentations to colleagues. These are the exact communication tasks that engineers, technicians and IT professionals face daily in international workplaces.

Professional Meeting Phrases

1. Thank you all for joining today.
2. Let's get started - we have a full agenda.
3. The purpose of this meeting is to review progress.
4. Could I have your attention for a moment?

5. Before we begin, does anyone have urgent items?
6. I'd like to hand over to Sarah for the next section.
7. As you can see from the slide, sales increased last quarter.
8. The main takeaway from this data is...
9. Does anyone have questions so far?
10. If I understand correctly, you're suggesting...
11. Could you clarify what you mean by that?
12. That's a fair point - let me address it.
13. I see what you mean, and I partly agree.
14. I'm not sure I follow - could you give an example?
15. Let me play devil's advocate for a second.
16. We may need more time to decide on this.
17. Can we table this and return to it later?
18. I propose we move forward with option B.
19. Are we all aligned on the next steps?
20. Let me summarize what we've agreed.
21. The action item for me is to send the report by Friday.
22. Who will take ownership of the follow-up?
23. We're running short on time - let's prioritize.
24. I'll circulate the minutes after the call.
25. Thanks everyone - that's all for today.
26. Could we schedule a follow-up next week?
27. I'd like to push back on that timeline slightly.
28. From a budget perspective, we need to be careful.
29. The risk here is delayed delivery.
30. We should loop in the legal team before signing.
31. Let's take this offline and discuss separately.
32. I'm happy to volunteer for that task.
33. We need a concrete deadline, not a rough estimate.
34. Can everyone confirm they received the document?
35. I'll share my screen for the demo.
36. Sorry - you were breaking up. Could you repeat that?
37. Let's mute if we're not speaking.
38. I agree with the general direction.
39. We don't have enough data to decide yet.
40. That aligns with what we discussed last month.
41. I'll flag this as a blocker in the tracker.

Technical Vocabulary

1. assembly line - a manufacturing process where parts are added in sequence
2. calibration - setting equipment to accurate measurement standards
3. circuit board - flat board connecting electronic components
4. compressor - device that increases gas pressure
5. corrosion - gradual damage to metal from chemical reaction
6. diagnostic - test or tool used to identify faults
7. efficiency rating - measure of how well a system uses energy
8. fault tolerance - ability to keep working when parts fail
9. gear ratio - relationship between rotating speeds in machinery
10. hydraulic - systems using liquid under pressure to move parts
11. insulation - material that reduces heat or electrical transfer
12. junction box - enclosure for electrical connections
13. kilowatt-hour - unit of electrical energy consumption

14. load capacity - maximum weight or force a structure can bear
15. maintenance schedule - planned intervals for service and checks
16. non-conductive - material that does not carry electricity
17. operating manual - document explaining how to use equipment
18. prototype - first working model of a new design
19. quality assurance - processes ensuring products meet standards
20. resistance - opposition to electrical current flow
21. specification sheet - detailed list of product requirements
22. torque - twisting force applied to rotate an object
23. upstream / downstream - earlier or later stages in a process
24. voltage - electrical force that drives current
25. warranty period - time during which repairs are covered
26. yield - percentage of acceptable output from production
27. zero defect - quality goal of no faulty items
28. batch number - code identifying a production group
29. conveyor belt - moving surface transporting items
30. decommission - take equipment out of service safely

Describing a Process

Use sequencers when explaining technical procedures: First, ensure the power supply is disconnected. Next, remove the access panel using the approved screwdriver. Then, inspect the circuit board for visible damage. After that, replace any faulty components according to the specification sheet. Finally, reassemble the unit and run a diagnostic test before returning it to service.

Practice: Write a six-step procedure for a task you know (installing software, changing a tire, preparing a lab sample).

Extended Reading Passage

Read aloud once for gist, then again for vocabulary. Underline five new words and write your own summary paragraph.

Effective language learning depends on consistent exposure and active use. Many learners spend years studying grammar rules without speaking regularly, which creates a gap between knowledge and performance. Research suggests that daily contact with meaningful input - podcasts, articles, conversations, films with subtitles - builds the mental patterns needed for fluent speech. Output matters too: writing short paragraphs, recording yourself, and joining discussions force your brain to retrieve vocabulary under time pressure, which strengthens long-term memory.

Another key factor is error tolerance. Advanced speakers make mistakes; the goal is communication, not perfection. Keep a personal error log: note recurring problems (prepositions, articles, word order) and review them weekly. Pair study with real tasks - emails, presentations, travel - so new language serves a purpose. Finally, set measurable goals: learn twenty collocations this month, hold a ten-minute conversation twice a week, or finish one graded reader. Small, steady progress beats occasional marathon sessions.

Error Correction Exercises

Find and fix the mistake in each sentence. Answers are in parentheses.

1. She don't like spicy food. (doesn't)

2. I have been to Paris last year. (went - specific past time)
3. He is more taller than his brother. (taller - remove more)
4. We discussed about the problem. (discussed the - no about)
5. She suggested me to apply. (suggested that I apply)
6. I am agree with you. (I agree)
7. He explained me the rules. (explained the rules to me)
8. The informations are useful. (information - uncountable)
9. I look forward to meet you. (to meeting)
10. She is married with a lawyer. (married to)
11. I have a news for you. (some news - uncountable)
12. He did a mistake. (made a mistake)
13. We must to finish today. (must finish)
14. She is boring of the lecture. (bored by / bored with)
15. I am here since three hours. (have been here for)
16. He said that he will come. (would come - reported speech)
17. The children is playing outside. (children are)
18. I am used to wake up early. (used to waking up)
19. She is responsible of the team. (responsible for)
20. We need discuss this later. (need to discuss)

Sentence Building Practice

Combine the prompts into full sentences. Example: [weather / bad / stay home]
-> Because the weather was bad, we decided to stay home.

1. [deadline / tight / work / weekend]
2. [not familiar / software / ask / colleague]
3. [train / delayed / arrive / late]
4. [research / shows / exercise / improves / memory]
5. [although / tired / finish / assignment]
6. [if / more time / learn / second language]
7. [manager / praised / team / hard work]
8. [before / presentation / rehearse / twice]
9. [customer / complained / slow / service]
10. [since / moved / city / made / friends]
11. [unless / study / regularly / forget / vocabulary]
12. [despite / rain / match / continued]
13. [recommend / book / anyone / interested / history]
14. [while / waiting / bus / read / article]
15. [as soon as / hear / news / call / me]

Four-Week Study Plan

Use this plan to study Technical English in daily 30-45 minute sessions.

Week 1 - Foundations

Days 1-2: Skim the guide and list unknown words. Days 3-4: Study one core chapter and summarize it in your own words. Days 5-7: Do practice exercises aloud; record yourself if possible.

Week 2 - Active Practice

Days 8-10: Focus on your weakest section; redo examples without looking. Days 11-12:

Explain the material to a friend or aloud alone. Days 13-14: Mixed review from all sections.

Week 3 - Real Usage

Days 15-17: Use new language in real tasks. Days 18-19: Read or listen to authentic English on the same topic. Days 20-21: Write 300 words applying what you learned.

Week 4 - Consolidation

Days 22-24: Timed practice under exam or workplace conditions. Days 25-26: Fix weak areas using notes and answer keys. Days 27-28: Final review before moving to advanced material.

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