

Introduction to Technical English

Teachers: Mercè Coll and Ana Fernández (merce.coll@uab.es) (ana.fernandez@uab.es)

Syllabus

This course has three principal focuses: reading, grammar, and writing.

1. Reading: we will read authentic texts on a variety of subjects related to computing. Specific techniques to improve your reading skill will be taught.
2. Grammar: we will first review the form and use of verb tenses, then give special attention to the passive voice, relative clauses, comparatives and superlatives, the uses of infinitives and gerunds, linking expressions, conditional sentences, the use of modal verbs and imperatives, word-formation and complex noun-phrases, and the use of determiners and pronouns.
3. Writing: the focus will be on writing essays that describe a process or system and/or defend an opinion. Opportunity will be given for intensive writing, and the identification and correction of common written errors in the Theory classes.

Course materials

1. *A Reading Course for Computing*, by Carmen Rueda Ramos, Elisabet Arnó i Macià and Antonia Soler Cervera, Cedecs Editorial, SL. Please bring this textbook to all Theory classes.
2. *Intermediate Language Practice* by Michael Vince, Heinemann ELT. Please bring this textbook to all Theory classes.
3. Materials for use in the Practice classes will be put on the EUIS intranet.

We also recommend that you bookmark these computing reference websites:

<http://www.wordreference.com/> (*Collins Concise Eng-Span/ Span-Eng dictionary*)

<http://www.telefonica.es/fat/elex.html> (*Spanish-English dictionary of terms*)

<http://www.pcwebopaedia.com/> (*in English*)

<http://www.techweb.com/encyclopedia/> (*in English*)

Assessment/Evaluation

The final exam will constitute 60% of the your grade, the remaining 40% will correspond to the marks you get in your practice exercises. Students have to take both parts.

There are 2 partial exams (February and May) and a final exam (25th June).

Those students who pass the partial exams will not have to take the final exam.