

Introduction to Technical English

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Syllabus

This course aims at all-round skills development:

1. **Reading:** to develop the skill of reading for information from a wide variety of authentic IT material.
2. **Listening:** to develop the ability to understand native speakers with a variety of accents talking about IT.
3. **Writing:** to write instructions, descriptions and explanations about topics in computing and IT.
4. **Language-Grammar:** to consolidate and extend the student's understanding and use of structures and functions common to IT and computing at intermediate levels. We will review the forms and uses of verb tenses, passive voice, relative clauses, the uses of infinitives and gerunds, linking expressions, conditional sentences, the use of modal verbs and imperatives and word-formation and complex noun-phrases. We will also work on how information is organized within a text.

Course materials

1. *Oxford English for Information technology*, by Eric H. Glendinning and John McEwan, Oxford University Press. **Please bring this textbook to all Theory classes.**
2. Materials for use in the Practice classes will be put on the EUI 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.hyperdictionary.com/computer> (*Computer Dictionary*)

<http://www.webopedia.com/> (*Computer and Internet technology definitions*)

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/whome/0,289825,sid9,00.html> (*Definitions for IT-related words*)

Assessment/Evaluation

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

N= nota final

T= teoria

P= pràctiques

$N = T \cdot 0.6 + P \cdot 0.4$ iff $T > 4$ and $P > 4$