

# The importance of using English Language effectively in Engineering

The common language used by engineers to communicate their ideas, concepts and technologies in countries right across the world is English. English is the 'First Language' or the 'Working Language' all engineers need to be able to both use and understand. Having strong English communication skills in order to write technical reports, explain complex ideas and new technologies to people from non-technical backgrounds are considered to be essential skills that any engineer must possess.

Possessing good English Language skills are an indispensable means of gaining knowledge about new technologies and understanding scientific principles. For engineers from non-English speaking countries right across the world, speaking or understanding English is no longer a luxury, but an absolute necessity. Therefore it is said that an engineer who is not fluent in English would in effect be a disadvantage to other professionals.

It is important therefore, that not only your use of English is not only good but that it should be grammatically correct and most importantly, that words are spelt correctly,

When conducting research and providing written descriptions for your PEO, your use of English will be periodically checked and where necessary, corrected. This is purely to help you improve your use of English for the reasons explained.

Spelling words correctly when using English can be quite challenging. Many people have problems with spelling correctly. One of the main reasons for this is that many English words are NOT spelled as they are spoken. This difference between pronunciation and spelling causes a lot of confusion.

There are some tricky English words, like *necessary*, whose spelling you simply just have to learn. But plenty of others do follow special rules. There are many websites that can guide you with these – for example, try the following website: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/spelling-rules-and-tips>

Test yourself by correcting the short passage of text below;-

Soldering is defined as "the joining of metals by a fusion of alloys which have relatively low melting points". In other words you use a metal that has a low melting point to adhere the surfaces to be soldered together. Soldering is rather like glueing with molten metal, unlike welding where the base metals are actually melted and combined. Soldering is also a 'must have skill' when carrying out electronics work, it is also a skill that must be taught correctly and developed with practice. It is easy to make mistakes when soldering, getting the solder too hot, not cleaning the joint before soldering and not forming the component leads correctly being some of the most common examples. It is important that your competence is perfected before you start assembling circuits, there are many ways in which you can achieve this.

## Words commonly used in Engineering that you need to be able to spell correctly

Maintenance	Achieving
Oscilloscope	Careers
Kirchhoff	Relevant
Labelling	Appropriate
Assessment	Appreciate
Successfully	Curriculum
Processes	Challenge
Applications	Industries
Usable	Assemblies
De-Soldering	Efficiency
Permanent	Emissions
Employability	Specialising
Programme	Transmission
Communications	Disciplines
Opportunities	Occupation
Businesses	Analytical
Professional	Discussion
Referred	Commitment

### Often confused similar words:

Your - belonging to you

You're – you are

To – 'I'm going to work today'

Too – 'I'm too tired to go to work tomorrow'

There – 'It's over there'

Their – 'That is their property' (i.e. it belongs to them)