



Anglès tècnic

CFGM.IEA.M13/0.16

CFGM Instal·lacions elèctriques i automàtiques

Aquesta col·lecció ha estat dissenyada i coordinada des de l'Institut Obert de Catalunya.

Redacció de continguts

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Primera edició: febrer 2016
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Dipòsit legal: DL B 28671-2015



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Introduction

This is the course *Anglès tècnic* corresponding to the studies of the CFGM of 'Instal·lacions elèctriques i automàtiques'. It is composed of two parts: the written material and the web material. The written material includes texts related to electricity and electrical installations, as well as everyday conversations in the field of electric work. You will also find the basic grammatical and lexical contents that are necessary to use in the English language. As it is designed as a distance learning course, it also includes tips and suggestions to help you learn the language on your own. On the other hand, the web material is composed of online activities and exercises which may serve as further practice.

This course has been designed for students and professionals in the field of Electronics who need to improve their English skills to use them professionally and at home. Students need to have at least a lower-intermediate level of the language to do this course appropriately. However, low-level students, or even students with absolutely no level of the language, will have a number of resources in the website to help them understand the contents of the course.

The present material will give you the theoretical knowledge (grammar and vocabulary) that you need to communicate in English effectively. The texts at the beginning of each section will offer a good opportunity to check and practise your reading comprehension and pick up some technical words referring to your professional field. On the other hand, you will also get some advice on the appropriate techniques that you can use in your study of the language. The other language skills, like writing, listening and speaking, are practised through a variety of activities available for you in the school website and in the web material.

The contents are divided into three units, and each unit is divided into three sections, which together cover the different aspects of the English language. Each section begins with a text about the corresponding topic. Then, you will see the Storyline, which is a short story about an English boy, Bill, who goes to Barcelona for practicals. He will accompany Jordi, an electrician, to do different jobs. Next, you will find information about several linguistic aspects as, for example, grammar, vocabulary, language functions and phonetics. You will also find advice and ideas on how to develop the different skills implied in the learning of a language, like writing, translating and summarizing a text as well as some study techniques which you can use in your autonomous study of English.

The unit called ‘Electric current and electric components’ is about electricity basics. There is the explanation of how electric current is generated, the introduction to basic concepts such as “conductors”, “insulators”, or “AC” and “DC” current. It contains the description of electric circuits and their components. The concepts of current, voltage, resistance are introduced and their interrelation explained by means of the Ohm’s law. Finally, it deals with the topic of ammeters, voltmeters and multimeters, used as instruments to measure electricity.

The unit ‘Home electrical installations’ describes how electricity reaches homes and it is distributed by the elements that compose a consumer unit; and how miniature circuits work. Also, there is a list of symbols used to represent switches, socket outlets, and other electrical elements present in the house. You will see a list of safety issues with regards to electricity installations. The text includes information and terminology that might be useful in your current studies.

The unit called ‘Solar energy and antennas’ will introduce you into the world of solar energy and the devices that allow to turn sun radiation into electricity. The second section is about antennas. You will see the different types of antennas, and the description of some features about them.

When you start the study of a unit in the course, the first thing that you should do is to look at the contents page of the corresponding unit in the textbook to get an idea of what you will have to study in that unit. The book is not actually designed as a study book, but rather as a manual where you can check only what you need to solve a specific activity. You won’t probably need to read the majority of the sections to complete the course, but they are available for you in case you need them for anything. Use a dictionary or an automatic translator if you have problems with the language, but make the effort of understanding the text even if you do not know all the words. There is a vocabulary at the end of each section with the technical terms. To check if you understand the topics, you can do the web activities and exercises. When you do your activities, go back to the book frequently to look up the information that you need. In case of doubts with the contents of this course, check the complementary resources that you will find in the class website or ask your teacher or your classmates.

We hope that the present material is useful for you. A good knowledge of the language may have a positive influence on your personal success, your career training, your chances of promotion and possibly on a successful job search.

Learning objectives

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

1. Understand oral messages in standard language both in daily life situations and in the professional field of the electrical installations, as well as analyze the general meaning of a message and relate it to the corresponding language resources.

- Arrange the elements that make up a message.
- Identify the main idea in a message.
- Be conscious of the importance of understanding the main ideas in a message even if you do not understand all the elements that compose the message.
- Get specific information in messages about usual aspects of the everyday and professional life.
- Identify the main ideas in a well-structured speech in standard language about well-known aspects and transmitted in the media.

2. Understand simple written texts related to the field of electrical installations and analyze the contents comprehensively.

- Choose reference material and technical dictionaries.
- Read simple texts in standard language.
- Translate a text in standard language by using reference materials, if necessary.
- Interpret the general meaning of a message.
- Relate the text to its corresponding context.
- Identify the terminology used in a message.
- Interpret technical manuals.

3. Produce clear, well-organized oral messages frequently used in companies of the field of electrical installations and take an active part in professional conversations.

- Express the tasks which you have to carry out in your job.
- Communicate by using formulas, connectors and strategies used in the interaction with other people.
- Describe and arrange a task in a sequence.

4. Write simple texts in standard language as normally used in the field of electrical installations and use the appropriate resources for each situation.

- Write short texts referring to everyday and/or professional aspects.
- Summarize texts related to your job.
- Organize the information in a coherent way.
- Apply the appropriate rules and specific vocabulary when filling in documents.

5. Show the appropriate attitude and behaviour in communicative situations as established by international conventions.

- Define the most distinctive aspects of the customs of English-speaking communities.
- Describe the social conventions of your country.
- Identify the values and beliefs which are characteristic of English-speaking communities.
- Identify the social and professional aspects of your job in all types of oral and written messages.
- Apply the social conventions in English-speaking communities.

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Unitat 3

Solar energy and antennas

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