Teaching and Learning Business and Technical English with TechnoPlus English 2.0

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Overview

1. Institutional background
2. Methodological approach
3. Technical aspects
4. How to use TechnoPlus English 2.0
5. Guided tour
6. Demonstration Engineering Topics: Wind to Hydrogen
7. Demonstration Situations: Presentations
8. The e&mLearning Publisher: How to add your own teaching and learning materials
Institutional background

• The Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft des Saarlandes is a University of Applied Sciences specialising in Engineering, Business Studies and – more recently – Social Sciences.

• The Applied Languages Team on Campus Alt-Saarbrücken caters for the teaching and learning of foreign languages in 15 Bachelor and Master programmes mainly in the area of Engineering.

• Engineering graduates are expected to have English language skills enabling them to operate in an international context.

• As a result, specialised English courses have been integrated as obligatory subjects into the curriculum of all our Engineering courses of studies.

• The courses are mixtures of General English, Business English and Technical English relating to the respective course of studies and preparing students for level B2.
Institutional background

• We expect students to be on level B1 at the beginning of their studies, but a lot of students tend to be below that level. We even have a large number of students who have never learned English before.

• Thus, due to this wide range of learner biographies, our learner groups are very heterogeneous.

• To deal with this situation, we have introduced a number of measures:
  - Online placement tests
  - Four-week prep courses (“Brückenkurse”) in English before the start of the semester
  - Special foreign language learning counselling service to enhance learner autonomy
  - Tutorials for students who haven’t reached the entrance level yet
  - Use of computer-assisted language learning programs

• In particular, the integration of CALL / e-learning into the communicative language learning process has proved to be highly advantageous for these learner groups.

• Despite the abundance of multimedia Business English programs available on the market, there have only been a few programs meeting the special needs of engineering students, who need to acquire skills in both Business English and Technical English.
Methodological approach

- TechnoPlus Englisch is based on a needs analysis carried out in cooperation with an internationally operating engineering company.

- Main target group: German learners of English on Level B1 working in or preparing for work in the engineering field

- The program follows a communicative approach enabling learners to train the four skills – reading, listening, speaking and writing – in an integrated way.

- Combination of Business English and Technical English

- BUSINESS ENGLISH: 7 Communicative Situations:
  - Enquiries
  - Arrangements
  - Negotiating
  - Meetings
  - Order Processing
  - Presentations
  - Applying for a Job

- TECHNICAL ENGLISH: 23 Engineering Topics based on authentic texts and videos from various engineering areas training learners in Reading and Video Comprehension

- An additional Grammar section

- A program-related Lexicon section
Technical aspects

• **Independent interactive self-study program on DVD-ROM**
  - Integration of various types of media, including video
  - Presentation of contents with access to various help tools
  - Links between program sections
  - High level of interactivity (spell-checker, different types of adaptive feedback, extensive error error anticipation, multiple solutions)

• **Distance Learning options** catering for the **training of productive skills**
  - In a distance learning setting using a videoconferencing system and e-mail
  - On the Internet or intranet
  - In a classical communicative language learning classroom
How to use TechnoPlus English 2.0

*TechnoPlus English* can be used in a variety of learning and teaching settings:

- **Self-study** at home
- **Self-study** in a self-study centre at the **university**
- In a **communicative language learning** and teaching setting in a **multimedia language learning laboratory** integrating monitored self-study phases and communicative phases
- In a **blended learning setting** combining self-study at home with Distance Learning phases and communicative language teaching and learning phases in groups at the university or in companies
- To **prepare** for work in the engineering field as well as for tests such as the new **MONDIALE Online Technical English Test**.
The e&mLearning Publisher: How to add your own teaching and learning materials

- Learners want access to TechnoPlus English on the internet using their own PCs or laptops
- Learners are increasingly mobile and ask for access from their smart phones, tablets or e-book readers
- Learners and teachers want further Engineering Topics
- Teachers usually don’t have the time and technical know-how to create their own online interactive teaching and learning materials
- Teachers don’t feel like producing the content again and again to suit the various devices in use: PCs, tablets, smart phones, e-book readers
- Creating their own online materials for these different devices must be
  - easy
  - fast
  - immediate
emLP: Same content – displayed on various devices
Existing content in CALL4U or Moodle

easily imported by the emLP via a special interface
Input of new content via Word or online
The layout and interactivity manager (LIM)

• Heart of the emLP

• It automatically adjusts the layout of the imported contents to suit the size of the various output devices, such as tablets, smart phones, IWBs, e-book readers.

• It also automatically adapts the functionality/interactivity mode to suit the various output devices (e.g. a matching exercise to be realised as drag&drop, tap&tap or bubbles).

• The graphic design can be manually adjusted by EUROKEY or the users themselves.
**Existing content under CALL4U or Moodle**

**Hoover Dam – Vocabulary exercises – matching exercise 1**

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<th>German</th>
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<tr>
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</table>
Input of new content via Word or online
Displayed in a web browser
Displayed on a tablet PC / E-book reader
Displayed on a smart phone
Displayed on an IWB
Exercise types supported by emLP

- plain text
- enriched text
- matching exercises
- fill-in exercises
- multiple choice
- true/false
- drop-down exercises
Advantages for the teacher/materials developer

- User-friendly, easy-to-use interface
- No technical/programming know-how required
- Easy and quick input of content via Word or online
- Content will be displayed immediately with the click of a mouse on various output devices
- Automatic adjustment of layout and interactivity mode
- Correction of mistakes in content to be made only once for all devices
- Changes to content to be input only once for all devices
Further information

http://www.technoplus.info

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Thank you very much for your attention

Any questions???