

OXFORD ENGLISH FOR CAREERS

Student's Book

TECHNOLOGY ²

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Get ahead in technology

In this unit

- reading for information and exchanging information with others
- speaking about course components
- *-ing* form and *to* infinitive after certain verbs
- ordering and delivering a short talk

Reading

Studying technology

- 1 The texts describe different ways of studying technology. Work in groups of three. Read one text each and note the information.
 - 1 Which way of studying technology does your text describe?
 - 2 Why did the student choose this way?
 - 3 What kind of courses do the students take?
 - 4 How long does it take to complete their study?
 - 5 What kinds of jobs can they do when they complete their studies?
- 2 Now find out from the others in your group about the texts they have read.

A University

Cristina is a second-year student of Electronic engineering at university. She decided to study at university because she wants the best choice of career and because she's interested in doing research in digital communications in particular. Most degrees take three years to complete, but some take up to five years because they include periods of work experience.

Degrees may have a broad focus, for example Electrical engineering, or focus on a specialized area, such as Power and High-voltage engineering. Cristina's course is broad-based to start, but she can specialize in digital communications later. Engineering can be studied in combination with other subjects. Cristina is taking German because she wants to spend six months in a German telecommunications company. This work experience will earn her credits towards her degree.

There is a wide career choice for graduate Engineers in design, production, quality assurance, and other fields. They may also work in marketing or become managers.

Cristina hopes to become a Research Engineer, finding new and better ways of doing things.

B Technical college

Okan is a first-year student at a technical college. He chose to study full time because he wanted to get a qualification before he started work. He thinks that being at college will give him more time to decide exactly which career he wants to follow and that having a qualification first will help him to get the kind of job he wants.

Colleges offer a wide range of vocational qualifications. Courses combine applied science, practical skills, and technical know-how. An Electronics Technician, for example, studies physics to understand the principles of the subject, learns how to find faults in equipment, and acquires a great deal of knowledge about electronic devices and components. Courses also include Communication skills to help students deal with communication at work and with the public.

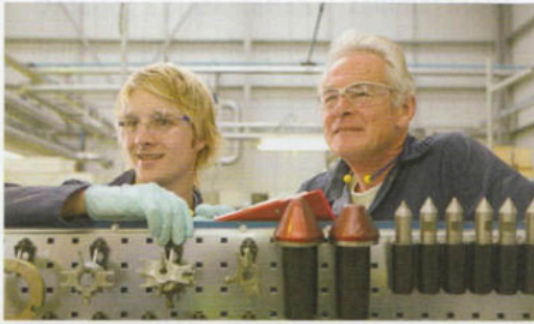
College courses may take a year for a certificate and two years for a diploma. When he graduates, Okan can start work as a Technician or go on to further study at university.

C Apprenticeship

Alessandro has just started as an apprentice Aircraft Fitter with a large defence industry company. Apprenticeships are a way of combining work with practical training. He chose an apprenticeship because he wanted to leave school and start working and earning money as soon as possible.

Today, apprentices combine work, on-the-job training, and part-time study on a day-release basis at a local college, paid for by their employer. Apprenticeships last from one to three years. In Alessandro's case, over the next two years he can obtain vocational qualifications to become a skilled Technician. He can also study to obtain entrance qualifications for higher-level studies so he can go on to become an Aeronautical Engineer.

It's my job



1 Before you listen to Stuart Cole, an Engineering Apprentice, look at **C** in *Reading* on p.5. Try to predict the answers to these questions.

- 1 How does he spend his working week?
- 2 How long will his apprenticeship last?
- 3 What sorts of skills will he acquire?

2 Now listen and check your answers.

3 Listen again and answer these questions.

- 1 What does Stuart's company make?
- 2 What stage in his apprenticeship is Stuart at?
- 3 Why is there a lot of paperwork?
- 4 Why do you think he has two days a week at college now?
- 5 When does he study?
- 6 How much studying does he do?
- 7 What are the attractions of becoming a team leader?

4 Work in pairs. Listen to what Stuart says in the last section of the recording (from 'I like learning...'). Help each other to make a complete and accurate version. Then compare with the *Listening script* on p.124.

Language spot

-ing form and to infinitive

● Study these examples:

She started **working** and **earning** money.

He's interested in **doing** research.

Research Engineers find new and better ways of **doing** things.

She wanted **to leave** school.

He wanted **to get** a qualification.

He decided **to study**.

● We use the *-ing* form after prepositions and after certain verbs, for example:

avoid	keep (on)	suggest
enjoy	practise	
finish	stop	

● We use the *to* infinitive after certain verbs, for example:

afford	decide	mean
aim	hope	promise
choose	learn	want

● With some verbs, we can use both the *-ing* form and the *to* infinitive with little change of meaning, for example:

begin	intend	prefer
continue	like	start
hate	love	

» Go to **Grammar reference** p.114

1 Fill the gaps from an interview with an apprentice. Use the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I didn't enjoy _____ (study) very much.
- 2 But I was always good at _____ (work) with my hands. I enjoyed working on motorbike engines.
- 3 I learned _____ (repair) electrical equipment with my father's help.
- 4 He suggested _____ (take) a course at college.
- 5 But I wanted _____ (start) work as soon as possible after school.
- 6 I decided _____ (apply) for an apprenticeship with a local company.