

1.1 What is engineering?

- c) What is the difference between these fields: *Informatik*, *Medizinische Informatik*, *Technische Informatik*, *Wirtschaftsinformatik*. How would you translate these names?

Informatik: Computer Science

Medizinische Informatik: Medical Information Technology

Technische Informatik: Technical Computer Science

Wirtschaftsinformatik: Business Information Technology

1.3 Verb review

Practice A: Select a verb form for the sentences. More than one answer may be correct.

- At school, I learned [to learn] English for eight years.
past situation → simple past
- I have studied / have been studying [to study] at OTH Regensburg since _____.
action which began in the past and continues in the present → present perfect or present perfect continuous
- This internship requires [to require] fluency in English.
fact → simple present
- I look forward / am looking forward to [to look forward] to completing my degree.
fact → simple present / long-term action → present continuous
- Oh no, my computer is malfunctioning [to malfunction] again!
present action → present continuous
- Most plastics do not conduct [to conduct / not] electricity well.
fact → simple present
- Our company expanded [to expand] to India last year.
past action that is fully complete → simple past
- We have not developed [to develop / not] a new product since 2015.
action which began in the past and continues in the present → present perfect

Practice B: Write a brief biography of yourself and your education, paying attention to appropriate vocabulary and verb forms. (See the GRIPS page for a sample biography.)

I am originally from Mallersdorf, where I also went to secondary school (≈Realschule). I completed an internship as an IT specialist (≈Fachinformatiker/in) at Müller GmbH in Geiselhöring, and then I returned to school to graduate from the vocational high school (≈FOS) in Straubing.

Presently I am studying towards my bachelor of science (B.Sc.) in Computer Science at OTH Regensburg, a university of applied sciences. I am currently in my first semester. I earn my bachelor's degree in <20xx>, and then I will begin to look for a full-time position, ideally in the field of application development.

1.5 Reading comprehension: English in engineering

Reading adapted from: Riemer, Marc J. (2002) English and communication skills for the global engineer. Global Journal of Engineering Education 6.1:91 –100.

Task: Now answer the questions below in your **own words** using **complete sentences**.

1. Why are English language skills important to an engineer in the workplace?
Describe at least two reasons.
 - Vital to maintain relevance
 - Important in both industry and academia
 - Most widespread language internationally
 - Companies seek engineers with good foreign language skills
 - Other engineers may not have good language skills: Competitive advantage
 - Important for international projects
2. According to the author, why is technical knowledge no longer enough to ensure an engineer's professional success?
 - Employers seek more than just technical skills, including communication, decision-making, teamwork, and leadership.
 - "Having the most knowledge is not as important as getting the work done effectively and collaboratively."
3. How can communication skills be improved?
 - Practice using methods such as class discussions, reading, writing, listening, context-specific role-plays, presentations
4. Based on your experience, would you agree with the author's statement that engineers frequently lack communication skills? Support your answer.
 - Up to you