BASIC ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY FOR BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION POLITÉCNICA





TERMS MODULE 3

A. List of terms to learn:

- 1. Anchor
- 2. Arch
- 3. Beam
- 4. Cable
- 5. Compression
- 6. Deep foundation
- 7. Disposal
- 8. Footing
- 9. Foundation
- 10. Frame structure
- 11. Girder
- 12. Ground screw
- 13. Joint
- 14. Joist
- 15.Load
- 16. Mass structure
- 17. Pad footing
- 18. Pile foundation
- 19. Purlin
- 20. Raft foundation
- 21.Rafter
- 22. Shallow foundation
- 23. Slab
- 24. Soil
- 25. Span
- 26. Stratum
- 27. Structure
- 28. Suspension structure
- 29. Truss structure
- 30. Vaulted structure
- B. Listen to the audio of each term. Repeat each term after you hear the sound. Do it several times.

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C. Pay special attention to the pronunciation of the following terms, check document 'materials to get you started'

- 1. Anchor / æŋkə/: the letter 'ch' in English may sound like a /k/ or a /t[/, similar to 'ch' in Spanish. In this case it sounds like a /k/. Other examples are 'chemist', 'chemistry' and 'architecture'.
- 2. Arch /a:t[/: here it sounds like a /t[/. However, 'arc' /a:k/ with a /k/, sound is 'any unbroken part of the circumference of a circle or other curved line'.
- 3. **Beam /bi:m/:** close your mouth to pronounce the 'm'; if not, you will be saying /bi:n/ 'bean', which means 'a nutritious seed of various plants of the legume family'.
- 4. Cable / keɪb^al/: rhymes with 'table', but not all words ending in 'able' are pronounced /'eɪb^al/. This is a common mistake, as many people pronounce 'vegetable' like 'table'. However, the correct pronounciation is /'vɛdʒtəb^əl/.
- 5. Foundation /faun der[an/: note that it is not 'fan' but /faun/ and make sure you pronounce the last syllable /fan/ properly.
- 6. Girder / gaːdə/: note that the first syllable is similar to a long 'e' in Spanish / gaː/ and that the 'r' is either not pronounced, or pronounce it very softly, depending on the English variety.
- 7. **Joint /dʒɔɪnt/:** make sure to pronounce the 't' at the end; otherwise you will be pronouncing the verb 'join'.
- 8. Load /levd/: the first syllable is /le/, NOT 'lo'; pronounce the sound /vd/ properly.
- 9. Pile foundation /paɪl/: the first word has an /ai/ sound and the 'e' at the end of the word is not pronounced in most cases.
- 10. **Purlin** /'p3:ltn/: again the 'r' is unvoiced and the previous vowel is extended.
- 11. Structure / strakt[ə/: the 's' at the beginning position sounds like an 's' without an 'e'. This is a typical mistake, as this sound does not exist in Spanish. Pronounce the 'u' /nk/ properly, then the 'c' sound is 'k', and the last syllable is pronounced like the one in architecture, /t[ə/; like other words ending in '-ture'.
- 12. Vaulted structure /'vo:lttd/: -'ed' sounds /tid/. Check 'materials to get you started' for pronunciation of regular verbs.