

SIMPLIFIED TECHNICAL ENGLISH [STE] IN TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

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ASD-STE100

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- ASD-STE100 is a controlled language to facilitate users of English-language maintenance documentation for better understanding
- It has been applied for more than 27 years
- It is adopted by Technical Writers as a rule-based writing
- It is a kind of language with rules in which information is well-organized for end-users with precise and concise contents

ASD-STE100

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- Initially, this standard is applicable to commercial aviation.
- Then, it became an essential need for Defence projects including that of Land and Sea vehicles.
- Nowadays, this standard is extensively applied in other industries for use in maintenance manuals.

ASD-STE100

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- In commercial aviation industry, STE is made as an essential requirement of the ATA Specification i2200, ATA104 (Training), and S1000D specification.
- European Defence Standards Reference considers ASD-STE100 as one of the important standards for writing technical documentation
- Nowadays, ASD-STE100 is adopted in numerous industries outside the Aerospace and Defence domains.
- Most of the Engineering and language domains exhibit interest in Simplified Technical English

Getting Started

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- ASD-STE100 is a controlled language, which is easily accessed at the below path:

<http://www.asd-ste100.org/>

- Recent release of ASD-STE100 in 2017
- ASD-STE100 is a stable standard with appropriate structure, which undergoes certain modifications as per feedback received from the users

Getting Started

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- ASD-STE100 makes technical texts easy to understand for end-users
- This standard requires knowledge on the use of English language and technical knowledge about the products or services for which the documents are developed
- However, misconceptions exist about ASD-STE100 that it is only applicable to Aerospace and Defence domains
- ASD-STE100 being a controlled language satisfies in portraying technical information on a global level through technical writers

Need of STE

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- ❑ English is the concurrent language in most of the industries and it is used for technical documentation
- ❑ Most of the end-users and readers have very less knowledge on English language or may be non-native English speakers
- ❑ The main objective of STE is to reduce complex sentence structures and by the number of meanings and synonyms which English words can have
- ❑ Airlines industry requested to create controlled form of English to non-native English audiences for performing correct maintenance
- ❑ STE provides technical texts in simplified form, which can be easily understandable by all readers

Use of STE for Technical Writers

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- STE transforms complex technical texts to simple understandable texts for facilitating readers
- Reduces language barriers
- Reduces risks of human factors

How STE functions?

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- STE Specification provides distinct writing rules and a dictionary of controlled vocabulary for SMEs, Writers/Authors, and Engineers.
 - ▣ Writing rules consist of several aspects of style and grammar
 - ▣ Dictionary consists of general words, which can be utilized
- Generally, only one word is used for one meaning and one part of speech for one word
- Apart from this, STE uses words associated to company specifications and technical projects

How STE functions?

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Example:

- THE SYNTHETIC LUBRICATING OIL USED IN THIS ENGINE CONTAINS ADDITIVES WHICH, IF ALLOWED TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE SKIN FOR PROLONGED PERIODS, CAN BE TOXIC THROUGH ABSORPTION.
- User needs to focus only on the areas where STE variants apply as follows:
 - ▣ Pay attention that oil doesn't come in contact with your skin.
 - ▣ It is poisonous.
 - ▣ If it comes in contact with your skin it can cause injury.

How STE functions?

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After applying STE Standard:

- ❑ DO NOT GET THE ENGINE OIL ON YOUR SKIN. THE OIL IS POISONOUS. IT CAN GO THROUGH YOUR SKIN AND INTO YOUR BODY.
- ❑ This example clearly denotes the STE application. The language as well as information content are modified.

Differences between Global English and STE

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- Global English is different from that of STE.
- STE as per ASD-STE100 clearly denotes rules for authors
- These rules are assigned to the author which reduces consequences with the reader such as loss of consistency and comprehensibility

Writing rules in STE

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There are several rules in STE especially accounted for writing such as follows:

- ❑ Consistent terminology
- ❑ Correct classification of safety instructions
- ❑ Enumerations instead of complicated texts such as bulleted or numbered lists instead of huge paragraphs
- ❑ Sentence length must be minimum
- ❑ No verbs with “ing”
- ❑ No “vague” auxiliary verbs
- ❑ Use of simple tenses

Simplified Technical English [STE] in Technical Writing

TechNakama