

INTRODUCTION TO MARITIME ENGLISH

DEFINITION OF MARITIME ENGLISH

What is Maritime English?

Maritime English is a specialized form of English used by seafarers, officers, and maritime professionals around the world. (Thamrin, 2016) stated that Maritime English includes the vocabulary, phrases, and communication structures necessary for safe and effective communication on board ships and in port operations.

“As defined by Prof. Peter J. Trenkner and IMO communication experts, Maritime English is the standardized, operational language of the maritime industry designed to ensure clarity, prevent misunderstanding, and promote safety in all shipboard and ship-shore communications worldwide.”

Due to the international nature of shipping, Maritime English plays a crucial role in preventing misunderstandings, ensuring safety at sea, and supporting smooth navigation and ship operation. (Nisbet et al., 1997).



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IMPORTANCE OF MARITIME ENGLISH

Effective communication is essential in the maritime industry. Most maritime accidents are caused by human error, often due to poor communication (Martin Keller, 2008; T.N. Blackey, 1987).

By mastering Maritime English, cadets can:

- Improve communication with multinational crews
- Follow international maritime regulations
- Understand and give standard marine commands
- Read and write maritime reports and logs
- Operate navigation and communication equipment correctly

This Maritime English material – is an English language material designed to help non-native English-speaking cadets and qualified personnel who are studying for professional qualification at maritime school throughout the Indonesia where the medium of English is used.

There are 7 meetings altogether:

1. Introduction to Maritime English
2. Getting Started with Maritime Projects
3. Sea Navigation Project
4. Maritime Radio Communication Project
5. The Safety and Emergency Evacuation Project
6. The Cargo Management and Documentation Project
7. Evaluation

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IMPORTANCE OF MARITIME ENGLISH

Each meeting covers language work relevant to the projects of Maritime English. They are also designed to support and reinforce the specific communication skills required in Maritime English. The meetings provide opportunities to practice terminology (SMCP), phrases, and communicative structures that are directly applicable to real-world maritime operations and project tasks.



The materials are therefore suitable for cadet studying to become, or studying for further qualification as Deck, or Radio Officers - for example - in warships and merchant vessels. The first meeting is an introduction in general about Maritime English itself. It is advised to be able to start the learning model in the higher-level semester. If time is limited, it is possible to work through two projects only plus the first (introduction meeting) and last meetings (evaluation meeting).

However, completing all projects will make cadet understand better before he starts his onboard practice and there are useful structures and vocabulary (SMCP) to be learnt by working through all the meetings. At the same time some knowledge of aspects of working industry would be gained. This would be particularly beneficial for cadets at the pre-selection stage.



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The material is designed to be used either in the classroom with a lecturer or by cadets individually on a self-study basis. Instructions and notes to guide the lecturer and cadet are given below and throughout the learning materials.

The learning material assumes an intermediate knowledge of English and is therefore not suitable for complete beginners. If the cadet is following an English language course before going on to nautical college or at least had taken their first level in maritime school, Maritime English studies can be used in conjunction with a general English language knowledge at intermediate or post-intermediate level.

What this learning material aims to do.

This learning material aims to provide a stepping-stone to enable a cadet to cross from an intermediate knowledge of general English to a position where he can handle the sort of learning materials and instruction he will meet at maritime school and on-board ship.

In order to help the cadet, the projects aim to develop within themes relevant to maritime studies reading skills, writing skills, communication skills, and vocabulary skills (SMCP). It also aims to build up the cadet's vocabulary of nautical terms. In addition to this, it is hoped that by working through the projects the cadet will gain a general knowledge of Maritime English and shipping, which he may not already have.



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BASIC AREAS COVERED IN MARITIME ENGLISH

This learning material will introduce and develop the following language skills within a maritime context:

- Speaking and Listening: Understanding orders and communicating clearly on board
- Reading: Interpreting charts, manuals, safety instructions, and regulations
- Writing: Recording information in logbooks, writing reports and messages
- Vocabulary: Learning technical and nautical terms commonly used at sea

In this learning material, learning will not only focus on mastering vocabulary, expressions, and communication strategies in Maritime English but also on applying them in real-world contexts through Project-Based Learning (PJBL)(Nizwardi Jalinus, Rahmat Azis Nabawi, 2017). This approach emphasizes active problem-solving and teamwork, where cadets will engage in projects that reflect authentic maritime situations, such as:

By working on the projects given, cadets are expected to develop not only their Maritime English proficiency but also their critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. In short, this material provides opportunities for cadets to learn by doing, ensuring that the knowledge and skills gained can be directly applied to professional maritime practices.

