

Typical features of academic English

I.

1.

a) an article from a magazine for the general public

b) A chatty conversational style with many practical examples easily understood by the general public. Only one specialist term: *piezoelectric crystals*; the other terms are commonly understood and used by laymen; use of informal expressions: *say, don't need*; inclusion of the reader: *Put the crystals in shoes, If you assemble enough people ...*

c) 2

(From: The 50 Best Inventions of the Year, Time, November 22, 2010, p. 66)

2.

a) a scientific paper

b) Scholarly style intended for a narrow academic readership; very specific terms: *single Layer Networks, trixel N-Tuple nodes*; frequent passive constructions: *it is concluded that, it should be noted that*; no informal expressions.

c) 4

(From: Bruce A. W., The Comparative Recognition of Monochromatic and Chromatic Images Using Networks of both Triple N-Tuple and Trixel Min/Max Nodes, Proceedings of the International Conference "Applied Electronics 2002", University of West Bohemia, Sept. 2002, p. 191)

3.

a) an article from a specialist magazine

b) The text combines clear and easy to read language with a focus on technical information of interest to specialists in the field, not necessarily researchers. No very specific terminology, only two passive constructions: *the specific energy should be determined, this information needs to be compiled*, one informal expression: *you can't manage what you can't measure*.

c) 3

(From: Coppinger S. J., Developing a corporate-wide strategic energy management program, IEEE Industry Applications, March/April 2011)

4.

a) an extract from a non-fiction book of witticisms

b) This text is not intended to provide specialist information, the style is informal and amusing, the sentences are short. Informal expressions: plagiarism is described as *stealing, computers foul thing up*; contracted forms: *If it's green, if it doesn't work*.

c) 2

(From: Bloch A., The Complete Murphy's Law, Price Stern Sloan, Los Angeles 1991)

5.

a) a specialist magazine

b) The text has a nice, simple, direct clear style, but the content is clearly of interest to specialists. Terms such as *spot welding, mechanical fasteners (rivets)*; active structures: *Engineers have four basic options, there are four basic options*. Informal language e.g. *instant gratification, rivet gun has done its job*. Inclusion of the reader: *time requirements that can change your calculations*; use of contractions: *Double-sided tapes also don't require curing time*.

c) 3

(From: <http://www.globalspec.com/>)

6.

a) a scientific paper

b) Scholarly style created by extensive use of specialist terminology, passive voice and formal versions of everyday words. Specialist terminology: *thixoforming*, *polyhedral austenite*, *metastable microstructures*. Passive voice: *research into ... steels has been focused on thixoforming, has been neglected*; examples of formal words: *neglected* (forgotten about), *vast* (big), *embedded* (stuck in), *transformations* (changes).

c) 4

(From: Aišman D., et al., Minithixoforming X210Cr12 tool steel, COMAT conference paper 2010)

7.

a) a novel

b) Descriptive, emotional language: *making a strange humming sound; sitting huddled in a corner*. Direct speech: *"It wasn't me! I didn't do it!", it squeaked at him.*

c) 2

(From: an unpublished science fiction novel by Jeremy King)

8.

a) a general interest magazine

b) A chatty, informal style is created by making references to popular culture (*Knight Rider TV series*) and rhetorical questions: *Remember the Knight Rider car?* Informal phrases: *sooner than you think*. It speaks about the application of computers in cars in a very general way (no highly technical terms), making it easy and relevant for the general reader.

c) 1

(From: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/mobile/business-12680509>)

II.

1. I 2. I 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. I 7. F 8. I 9. I 10. F 11. F 12. I

III.

Sentence 1

(1) assembly = joining stuff together (2) (It) is considered to be ... = We usually reckon (it) is ... (3) fasteners = things (4) immediate = pretty quick

Sentence 2

(5) are expensive = cost loads of money (6) requiring = needing

Sentence 3

(7) must keep = have got to keep (8) an extensive inventory = a big list (9) assembly = joining stuff together (10) is time-consuming = takes ages

Sentence 4

(11) do not distribute = don't spread

Sentence 5

(12) Rather = What they do is ...

Sentence 6

(13) results = ends up (14) just above = a little bit above

Sentences 7

(15) have difficulty withstanding ... = have a tough job resisting ...

Sentence 8

(16) You can test this = Try it out

Sentence 9

(17) Apply shear force = Push sideways on

Sentence 10

(18) (the leading edge has) slightly elevated (stress) = (the stress on the leading edge is) a bit higher ... (19) distributed = spread

Sentence 11

(20) many cases = a lot of cases

Sentence 12**Sentence 13**

(21) leads to failure of the joint = makes the joint fail (22) approximately = about

Sentence 14

(23) in addition = too

IV. Possible reformulations:

1. We develop electronic equipment. 2. We plan to equip this laboratory with a thermal camera. 3. We measure and test accumulators. 4. We test/We carry out tests of electromagnetic compatibility. 5. Implementation of ISO9000 will ensure reproducibility of all preset parameters. As a result, quality and reliability will be high. 6. We test low voltage switchgear. 7. The laboratory is equipped with a contaminometer which is able to measure impurities accurately. 8. With the help of this software we design and simulate circuits. 9. The laboratory equipment includes instruments for measuring electric resistance. 10. We offer analysis, modelling and optimization of industrial processes./Our offer includes analysis, modelling and optimization of industrial processes.