

English for Construction

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Vocational English
Course Book



Evan Frendo

Series editor David Bonamy



CD-ROM

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Teamwork

- talk about roles and responsibilities
- explain how an organisation works
- describe your job and experience
- write your CV
- discuss roles in an international construction project

Roles and responsibilities

Speaking 1 Look at this illustration. Say what the people's jobs are and what they do.



Vocabulary 2 Match these descriptions with the people in the illustration in 1.

- 1 I'm a driver. I work for a concrete supplier. We deliver concrete to construction sites all over the country. ☐
- 2 I'm a master electrician. This is my apprentice. ☐ ☐
- 3 I'm a painter. Today I'm painting a steel staircase. ☐
- 4 I'm a security guard. I control access to the site. I'm responsible to the site manager. ☐
- 5 I'm the site manager. My company is responsible for the whole project. ☐
- 6 We're reporters. We're visiting the site to ask some questions. ☐

3 Name as many items in the illustration in 1 as you can. Compare your list with a partner.

ladder, ...

Speaking 4 Work in pairs. Either a) Explain what your job is and what you do. Or b) Imagine you work on the construction site in 1. Explain what your job is and what you do.
I'm a ... I work for ... My company ... I'm responsible for ...

Listening 5  **02** Two reporters are visiting Martin Karp from Karp Construction. Listen to their conversation. What do the reporters want?

6 Listen again and complete these sentences.

- 1 Karp Construction is the _____.
- 2 Martin Karp is the _____.
- 3 Sabina Tom is the _____.
- 4 Kasper Karp owns _____.
- 5 Mr Lang represents the _____.
- 6 Anna Black works for the _____.
- 7 Robert Lane is _____.

Language

Present simple and present continuous

We use the **present simple** to talk about routines and things that are permanent or happen all the time.

*I **control** access to the site.
 She **works for** the cement supplier.*

We use the **present continuous** to talk about things that take place at the time of speaking and are not permanent.

*We're **visiting** the site.
 He's **walking** through the gate.*

We use **adverbs of frequency** (e.g. *always, usually, often, sometimes, never*) with the present simple to describe how often somebody does something or how often something happens.

*We **usually** have about 100 people on site.
Sometimes we work in a consortium.*

7 Martin's assistant is giving more information about people's roles on site. Choose the correct verb forms to complete this text.

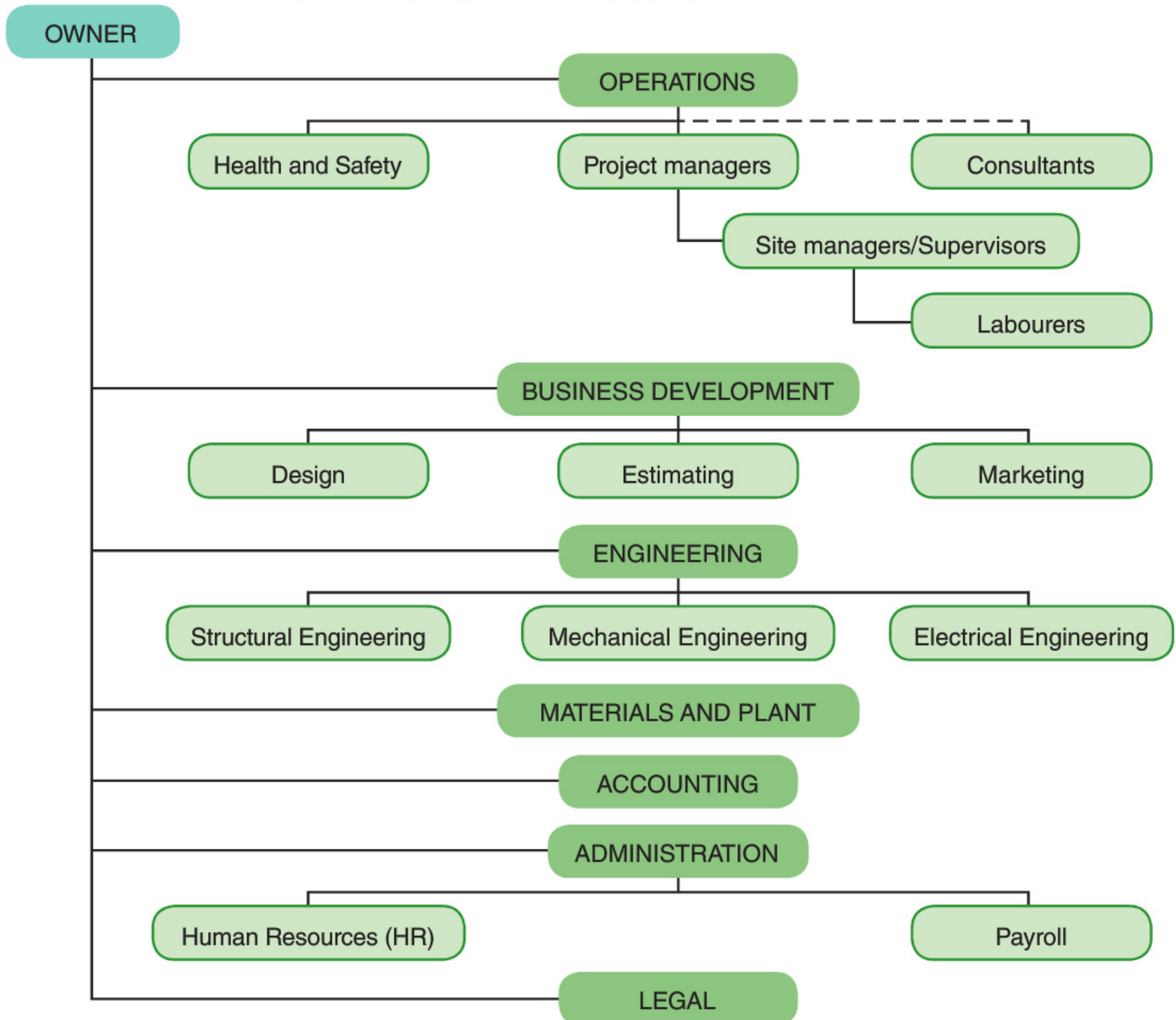
'... So, as Martin said, we (1) *have / are having* around 100 people on site every day. Today, most people (2) *work / are working* on the basic structure of the building. The people in green jackets over there are concrete finishers from DKI Cement, the cement supplier. On this project, they (3) *supervise / are supervising* the unskilled labourers, who are all local people. Of course, there are always a lot of heavy equipment operators. They (4) *handle / are handling* the cranes, the cement mixers, the cement pumps, and so on. The drivers (5) *bring / are bringing* in fresh loads of cement several times a day. Over there, a couple of painters (6) *paint / are painting* the staircase, and the electricians (7) *repair / are repairing* one of the generators.'

Speaking 8 Work in small groups to discuss these questions.

- 1 What's the difference between a general contractor and a subcontractor?
- 2 What's a consortium?
- 3 What suppliers are typical on a construction site?
- 4 In audio script 2 on page 70, Martin Karp says, 'We **co-ordinate all the subcontractors** and make sure things **stay on schedule** and **stay within budget**.' What do the expressions in bold mean?

Structure of an organisation

Vocabulary 1 Look at this organisation chart of a construction company. Then complete the sentences with the words in the box.



departments divided external has look part report section top

- 1 Our company has a simple structure. At the _____ is Kasper Karp, the owner.
- 2 There are seven _____. The department heads report to the owner.
- 3 Operations consists of a Health and Safety _____ and all the project managers.
- 4 The site managers and supervisors _____ directly to a project manager.
- 5 Business Development is _____ into three sections: Design, Estimating and Marketing.
- 6 Engineering also _____ three sections: Structural, Mechanical and Electrical.
- 7 There are different departments which _____ after materials and plant, accounting, administration and legal.
- 8 Sometimes we have _____ consultants to help with special jobs. They are not _____ of the company.