

Simplifying and illustrating technical explanations

- 14 a ▶ 1.5 Richard, a structural engineer, often takes clients on guided tours of their new buildings during construction. He is talking about explaining technical concepts to non-specialists. Listen and answer the following questions.

- 1 What does Richard say about explaining technical concepts?
- 2 What does he mean by *dull* explanations?
- 3 What is *being patronising*?

- b In pairs, think of some tips on how to solve the following problems.

- 1 not being understood
- 2 being patronising
- 3 explaining difficult concepts
- 4 sounding dull

- c ▶ 1.6 Richard is giving some advice about the problems in Exercise 14b. Listen and summarise his ideas. Compare his tips with your suggestions.

- 15 a Richard has made notes for a guided tour of a site. The project is a skyscraper in the early stages of construction. During the tour he explains the technical terms to the non-specialist group. In pairs, discuss the following terms and try to interpret them using everyday language to rephrase them.



SUBSTRUCTURE

- Pile foundations (in general)
- Bored in situ concrete piles
- Pre-cast driven concrete piles
- Pile driver
- Pile auger
- Bentonite

- b ▶ 1.7 Richard is giving a tour of a construction site. Listen and make notes of his explanations of the following technical terms. Compare your ideas with his.

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|---------------------|---|------------------------|-------|
| 1 the substructure | <u>the part of the structure below ground</u> | 5 pre-cast piles | |
| 2 a pile foundation | | 6 to drive in (a pile) | |
| 3 to bore (a pile) | | 7 a pile driver | |
| 4 in situ concrete | | 8 a pile auger | |
| | | 9 bentonite | |