

Lesson 2

Working for an electric utility company

- a** Read and complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in the box or with other words (nouns, adjectives, etc.) derived from these verbs. Use each of the verbs in the box twice.

branch

diversify

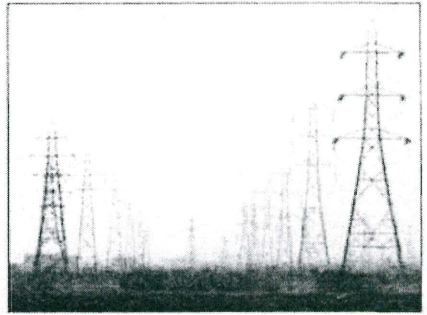
employ

generate

invent

produce

Electrical Engineering is the largest and most (1) _____ field of engineering and is the discipline that (2) _____ the largest number of engineers. It involves the development, design, application, and manufacture of systems and devices that (3) _____ and use electric power and electric signals. Despite its great (4) _____, electrical engineering can be divided into four main (5) _____: electric power, communications, electronics, and computer hardware. Electrical engineering first developed with the (6) _____, distribution, and utilization of electric power. Electrical engineers design and manufacture (7) _____, motors, transmission systems, and controls. When the vacuum tube was (8) _____, electrical engineering (9) _____ into communications systems, including radio and television, and electronic engineering. Later, with the (10) _____ of the transistor, electrical and computer engineers were (11) _____ to (12) _____ the hardware needed for storing, processing, and transferring information.

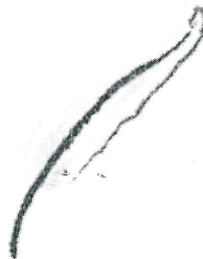


- b** Listen to four electrical engineers and write the number of each speaker in the correct column.

<i>electric power</i>	<i>communications</i>	<i>electronics</i>	<i>computer hardware</i>

History capsule

Two key inventions in the history of electrical engineering were the transistor, invented by engineers at Bell Labs in 1947, and the integrated circuit (commonly known as the silicon chip), developed at Texas Instruments in 1959.



c Now read about four more electrical engineers and underline the correct verb form in each sentence.

1. I (work / am working) for a company that produces radar and navigation systems for ships.

We (are doing / do) a lot of work for the Navy.

2. This company (makes / is making) components for the automobile industry.

Right now, I (am working / work) on a device that monitors engine functions.

3. I (design / am designing) monitors. I (am creating / create) a new, cheaper flat-screen monitor.

4. I (work / am working) for an electric utility company. I (am operating / operate) the transmission devices at the power station.

d Listen to check your answers.

CD
T-18

e Read the sentences in Exercise **c** again and label each one with the correct heading from the chart in Exercise **b**.

f In pairs, discuss the questions.

1. Which speakers in Exercise **c** focus on what they habitually do?
2. Which speakers talk about their current activities?

g Write four sentences, two in the simple present and two in the present continuous, about your field of study or work.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

h Write about your own field or any field other than electrical engineering. Include information about each of the topics in the box.

- general definitions and terms
- a brief history of the field
- things that are manufactured in this field
- areas of knowledge that people are required to master
- activities that people typically carry out