

What is english for specific purposes

English for Specific Purposes is probably the most challenging branch in language teaching, especially in our country, where it has only recently started to develop as such. Many teachers still have a rather vague idea what it is. Nowadays, to solve ESP challenges we should inform ESP teachers about who they actually are, what they actually teach, where they actually belong and what teaching methods they must use. We have to remember that the ESP founders wrote their book in the early 1980s, when the opposition between science and technology and the humanities was still considered natural. The current tendency has brought us to multiple links not only between subjects and professions, but also between professional and academic careers. Times have changed and so has ESP.

Now, we can easily answer the questions we asked at the beginning of this article. Who are ESP teachers? They are teachers at vocational schools, colleges and universities, as well as any other teachers who deal with their students' professional development. Professional ESP teachers are experts in teaching English for any profession, able to design teaching materials based on the content material presented by the professors, or experts in the subject.

What do they teach? ESP teachers teach academic skills to future (or real) professionals. They teach English for the profession and encourage their students to use their background knowledge along with the academic skills in dealing with all sorts of authentic information in their profession. ESP teachers design courses according to their students' professional needs, having in mind their target language use situation.

Where do ESP teachers belong? They belong to their professional unit, the ESP Section of their regional English Language Teachers' Association. ESP Sections should unite teachers, help them share their experience and knowledge, obtain new ideas and information on methods and techniques in teaching ESP, and actually get together and form their own professional community.