



Advanced Language Skills – In & Into in Engineering Texts

You frequently come across expressions containing the word *into*. *Into*, unlike *in*, is dynamic and indicates motion. As motion involves change, *into* is also used to signal changes of different kinds (e.g., change of state and form). In sentences 1-4: A) underline the verb preceding *into*; B) decide what *into* expresses in each case. Choose from: **changing; grouping/combining; separating**.

1. ... cooled to form an ingot, which is then sliced, using a diamond knife, into discs called wafers.
2. ... a material that was easy to fashion into wires.
3. Materials can be divided into two categories...
4. ... the glue that binds the electrons into superconducting pairs...

1. Major uses of INTO in electrical & computer engineering and other scientific texts

- **Changing:** change, compress, condense, convert, crystallize, deform, degenerate, distort, develop, encode, evolve, fashion, form, grow, make, oxide, redesign, roll (*into a cylinder, a tube*), shape, translate, transition, turn, wind (*into a coil, rolls*), (re)work
- **Expressions with *into shape*:** bend, cast, hammer, mold, roll, squash, stretch *into shape*
- **Grouping/combining:** aggregate, arrange, assemble, assimilate, bind, blend, bond, build up, bundle, categorize, classify, clump, cluster, coalesce, collect, (re)combine, compile, consolidate, fall (*into a category/class/type/group*), (re)formulate, incorporate, integrate, lock, merge, organize, pack
- **Separating:** break (up), decompose, distribute, divide, cut, disintegrate, dissociate, dissolve, partition, resolve (=break up), section, segment, separate, split
- **Entering/releasing:** discharge, disperse, embed, encapsulate, enter, escape, feed, fit, implant, inject, insert, load, penetrate, plug, punch (*data into cards*), release, stir, tune, write (*data*)
- **Spreading:** diffuse, expand, extend, radiate
- **Involved with/involving an activity:** (conduct/do) research into, inquire into, look into a matter;
- **Expressions with the verb to go:** work, energy, effort, preparation, planning goes into (+noun/verb -ing)
- **Fixed expressions signifying beginning-focus:** bring into focus, burst into flames, come into use, come into force, come into operation, come/bring into play, come into being, come/bring into existence, put into service, trigger into conduction
- **Other fixed / semi-fixed expressions:** be well into (=be far into), bump into, bring/come into contact, come into one's own (= be recognized as successful/useful), go/come into effect, run into (=experience) difficulty/problems/opposition, put/snap/slide/solder into place, slip into oblivion (=be forgotten), trick sb into doing sth.

► **Activity 1:** Place the numbers of the sentences below in the table on p. 194 following the grouping presented above:

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|---|--|
| 1. In recent years, considerable research has gone into trying to optimize their operation. | 8. A piece of sheet metal was bent into shape. |
| 2. The code was reworked into a more helpful form. | 9. The colours bled into one another. |
| 3. Thin electrodes were wound into a cylinder. | 10. The wire was bent into a loop. |
| 4. The data are categorized into 3 distinct types. | 11. Several programs are loaded into memory. |
| 5. Crystals can be classified into 32 crystal classes. | 12. The electric car is now coming into its own. |
| 6. Coal was fed into the burner. | 13. Wait 2 hours before you plug it into a socket. |
| 7. The mixture was split into 2 portions/halves. | 14. This trend lasted well into the 1990s. |
| | 15. They conducted research into nanomaterials. |