



Unit 27 Plain bearings and rolling bearings

Task 06

Announcer: Listen to Mr Puntigam talking about bearings.

Mr Puntigam: Hello, my name is Paul Puntigam, I'm the junior boss of Puntigam & Co. I'm glad to meet you all here and I would like to tell you something about the history of bearings as well as the bearing products of our company.

The term "bearing" comes from the verb "to bear," meaning to carry a weight. Bearings are machine elements that allow one part to bear, or to support, another part that moves.

Bearings have a history of more than 2000 years. Did you know that the earliest discovered example of a rolling bearing was made of wood? It was found in the remains of a Roman shipyard in Italy.

More than 500 years ago, Leonardo da Vinci, one of the greatest inventors of all time, made drawings of bearings for a helicopter he designed in the year 1500.

Enough history ... now, let me tell you something about our company ... We are a family-owned, medium-sized company with about 40 employees. We produce bearings for automobiles, planes and computers, as well as for various machine tools. Our bearings have an extremely wide application range. They are highly engineered, precise components that enable machinery to move at extremely high speeds and they are able to take on heavy loads easily and effectively. They have to offer high precision and durability as well as the ability to rotate at high speeds with a minimum of noise and vibration. We are happy to have customers all over the world ...