



Solution: see Audioscript

Unit 26 – Concrete

Task 09. Fill in the missing words from the box. A concrete expert who visits your company.

regular concrete – gypsum (2x) – self-compacting concrete – cracks – laboratories – wet – testing – specifications – mix – layers – setting time – workability – standards – structural engineer – cement

Expert: Ok, now it's time to answer some questions about concrete. Are there any?

Apprentice 1: Is it better to _____ concrete on the building site or to have it delivered from a concrete factory?

Expert: Excellent question! If concrete is manufactured in the factory, its quality is normally checked. You know that for larger buildings, exact _____ are given by the _____. It has to be the right concrete for the relevant part of the building. If you mix it on site, you will never know if the quality is adequate. Next question please!

Apprentice 1: How is concrete _____ done?

Expert: It's done according to the cement and concrete _____ required. The _____ check the mixture of water, _____, admixtures and aggregates in order to ensure its strength and safety. They also check the _____ and setting time plus many other things as well.

Apprentice 2: I have heard that _____ is sometimes added to cement. Can you tell me why this is done?

Expert: _____ is added to control the _____. As long as the concrete is _____ you can shape it. Then it sets through a chemical reaction called hydration. I imagine that you've heard about this before. Are there any more questions?

Apprentice 3: Is there anything I should pay attention to when working with concrete?

Expert: Never forget to pour concrete in _____. These should be between 30 and 50 centimetres deep. When working in temperatures below 5°C, concrete has to be protected from frost. At temperatures above 28°C it has to be protected from drying out too quickly, otherwise in both cases it _____ and becomes unstable.

Apprentice 4: Can you tell us about different types of concrete?

Expert: All right, there is _____, high strength concrete, _____ and many types more. I will tell you about this ...