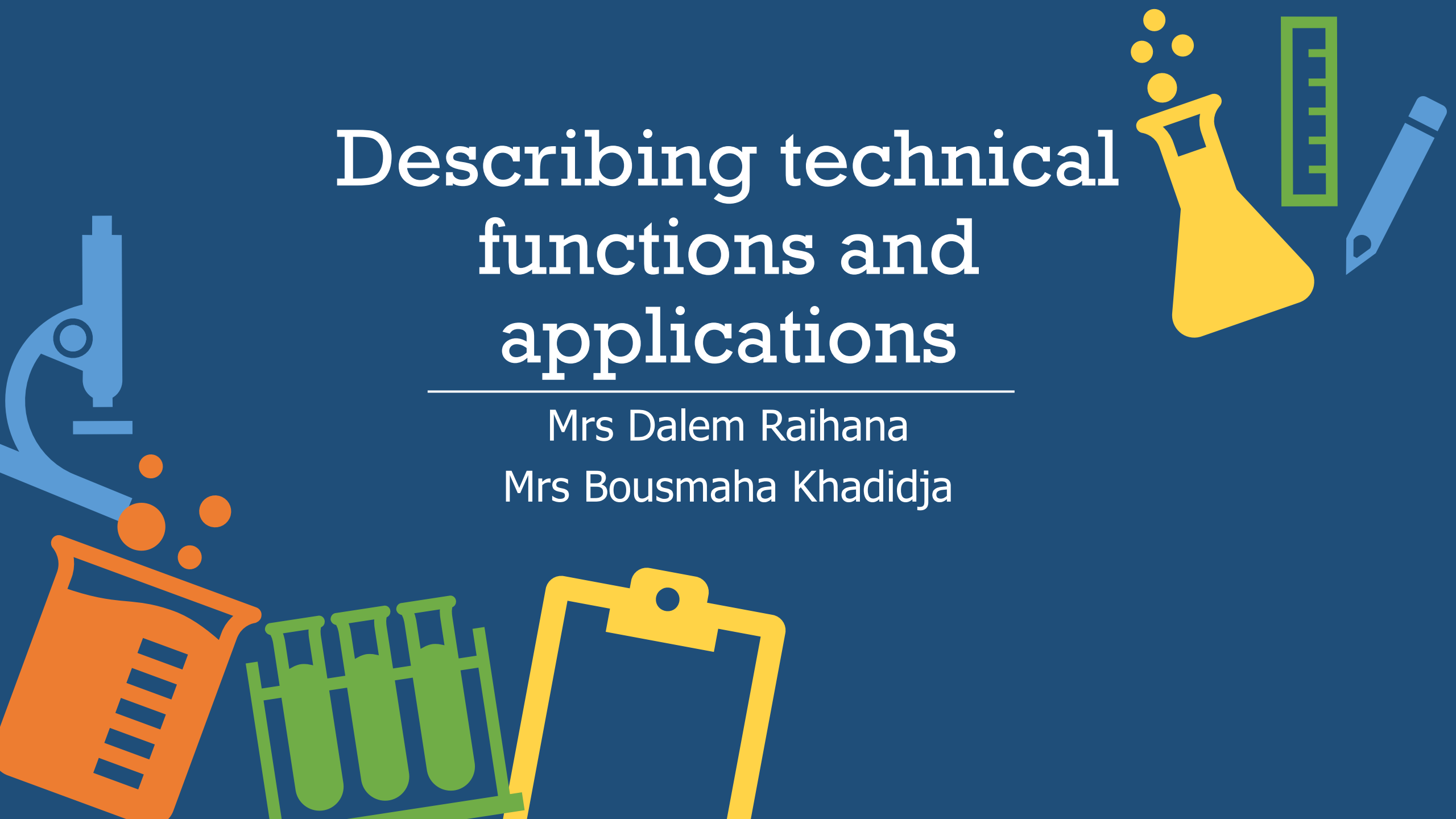# Describing technical functions and applications

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Mrs Bousmaha Khadidja

Think about two or three products you use regularly and discuss the following questions.

- • What are the main functions of the products? (What do they do?)

- • What are their different applications? (What are they used for?)

- Examples: mobile phones , electric drill/screwdriver handsets,,,,

GPS

- What do you know about Global Positioning System (GPS) devices? In pairs, describe their main function , and give some examples of different applications of GPS devices.

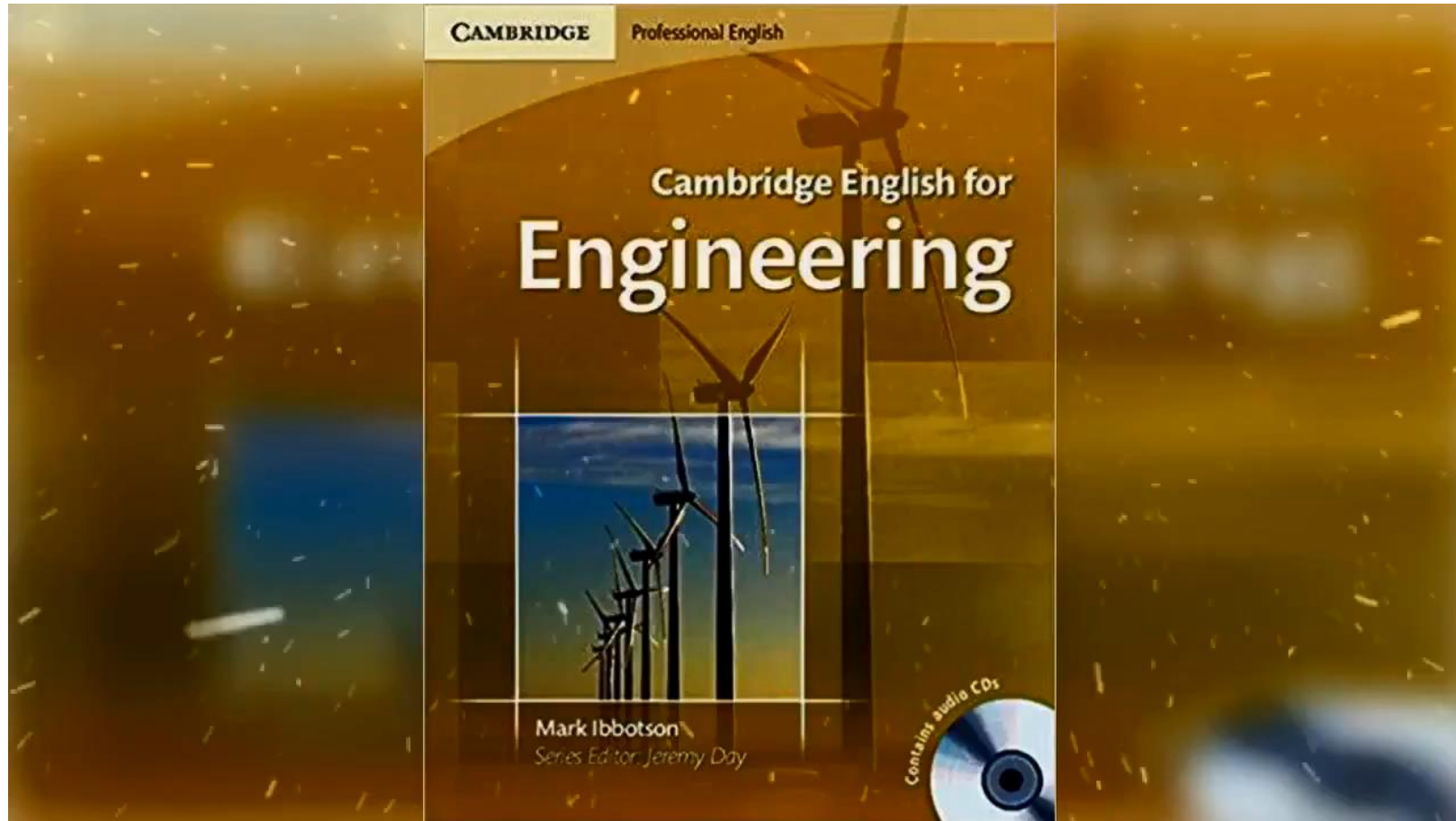- What do you know about the origins of GPS?

Answers

- 1 navigation
- 2 drift
- 3 (monitoring) delivery vehicles
- 4 man overboard
- 5 (finding) stolen cars
- 6 innovative uses of

Paula, a design engineer for a GPS manufacturer, is discussing product development with Jose, a senior manager new to the company. Listen to the conversation and complete the following notes.

- the primary application of GPS (1) is Navigation

- associated applications   Tracking systems for (2) delivery

                              Tracking systems for (3) stolen cars

- more creative features   (4) drift alarms

                              (5) man overboard bottoms

- not technical innovations (6) ways uses the technology

Listening Script
https://streamable.com/zta94s

Keys

- 1 navigation
- 2 (monitoring) delivery vehicles
- 3 (finding) stolen cars
- 4 drift
- 5 man overboard
- 6 innovative uses of

Exercise 02:

Complete the following extracts from the discussion with words that come from use.

- 1-Then you've got associated applications, uses that are related to navigating .. .

- 2-... tracking systems you can use for monitoring delivery vehicles ...

- 3-... from the end user point of view, accuracy is no longer the main

selling point. Most devices are accurate enough. The key is to make them more usefull .

Answers

- 1 uses
- 2 use
- 3 user's;
- useful

Excersise03:
Match the GPS applications (1-6) to the descriptions (a-f).

1 topographical surveying	A- navigation and safety at sea
2-geological exploration	B- setting out positions and Levels of new structures
3-civil engineering	C- mapping surface features
4-avionics equipment	D-applications in mining and the oil industry
5-maritime applications	E-highway navigation and vehicle tracking
6-GPS in cars and trucks	F- air traffic control, navigation and autopilot systems

Answers

- 2 d   3 b   4 f   5 a   6 e

In pairs, practice explaining the applications of GPS in Exercise 3 to a colleague who has limited knowledge of the devices using the following phrases.

used for -ing used to useful for another / a similar use

Exercice 04:

Complete the following extracts from the conversation by underlining the correct words .

- . . . there's a setting on the GPS that **allows/prevents** it to detect the movement ...

- 2 ... an alarm sounds to warn you, and **allows/prevents** the boat from drifting unnoticed.

- 3 .. . and **enables/ensures** that you don't lose track of where you were, which then **enables/ensures** you to turn round and come back to the same point .. .

Answers:

- 1 allows
- 2 prevents
- 3 ensures; enables

Match the words in Exercise 4a to the synonyms.

- 1 -_____ = makes sure

- 2 _____ / _____ = permits

- 3 _____ = stops

Answers:

- 1 ensures

- 2 allows/enables

- 3 prevent

Complete the following extract from the user's manual of a GPS device using the verbs in Exercise 4. Sometimes, more than one answer is possible.

INTRODUCTION

The core function of your GPS receiver is to (1) _____ you to locate your precise geographical position. To (2) _____ the device to function, it receives at least three signals simultaneously from the GPS constellation – 30 dedicated satellites which (3) _____ receivers can function anywhere on earth. To (4) _____ extremely precise positioning and (5) _____ errors from occurring due to external factors, this device is designed to receive four separate signals (see enhanced system accuracy on page 18).

Task :

- In pairs, explain the main functions and applications of a product made by your company or a product you know about. Student A, you are an engineering manager; Student B, you are a new employee. Use the language from this section and the phrases in the box. Swap roles and practise again.

Thank you see you next session

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