The term "technical English" describes a common language core that is used in a number of technical professions such as scientists, technicians, technologists, and operators. Technical English for engineers is especially important today.

Not only does it facilitate communication among native and non-native speakers of English, it also reduces the risk of errors and contributes to lower translation costs when the documents are later professionally translated into other languages.

Simplified Technical English

Simplified Technical English (STE)—or ASD-STE100 Simplified Technical English as it is officially called—is an international standard for using English in technical documentation. It is designed for use by non-native and native English speakers alike and uses simplified grammar and terminology. This makes it easier for readers to understand and prevents mistakes, which is especially important in technical documentation and in the translation of manuals.

History of technical English
Simplified Technical English was first developed as a controlled form of English for the aviation industry at the initiative of the European Association of Aerospace Industries in the 1980s. At the time, it was called AECMA Simplified English. Its goal was to help non-native speakers of English better understand technical manuals and instructions.

Over time, Simplified Technical English spread from the aviation and aerospace sector to other industries who also relied on ease of understanding, primarily the engineering and technology sectors.

In 2005, this language variant was renamed to ASD Simplified Technical English, or STE as we know it today. Simplified Technical English is used as a guideline by many writers of technical documentation and is also prescribed by several military and commercial specifications.