



Task Title: Understanding Gear Terminology

OALCF Cover Sheet – Learner Copy

Learner Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Date Completed: _____

Successful Completion: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal Path: Employment ☐ Apprenticeship ☐

Secondary School ☐ Post Secondary ☐ Independence ☐

Task Description: The learner will read and interpret terminology used by millwrights and other tradespeople who repair equipment with gears.

Main Competency/Task Group/Level Indicator:

- Find and Use Information/Read continuous text/A1.2

Materials Required:

- Pen/pencil and paper and/or digital device

Learner Information



Millwrights and other skilled tradespeople may need to troubleshoot, repair and maintain gears in drive train systems and other machinery.

Read “Types of Gears” and “Idler or Intermediate Gear”.

Types of Gears

Bevel Gears 	Bevel gears are usually used situations that require power to be transmitted at right angles. Bevel gears can have different angles of application but tend to be 90°.
Helical Gears 	<p>Helical gears are very similar to spur gears except the teeth are not perpendicular to the face. The teeth are at an angle to the face giving helical gears more tooth contact in the same area.</p> <p>Helical gears tend to run quieter and smoother than spur gears due to the increased number of teeth in constant contact at any one period of time.</p>
Herringbone Gears 	<p>Herringbone gears resemble two helical gears that have been placed side by side. They are often referred to as “double helicals”.</p> <p>One benefit of herringbone gears is that it helps to avoid issues related to side thrust created with the use of helical gears.</p>
Worm Gears 	Worm gears are used to transmit power at 90° and where high reductions are required. The worm resembles a thread that rides in helical teeth.
Spur Gears 	Spur gears are the most common type of gear. Spur gears have teeth that run perpendicular to the face of the gear.
Internal Gears 	Internal gears typically resemble inverted spur gears but are occasionally cut as helical gears.
Racks 	A rack is a straight gear used to transmit power and motion in a linear movement.

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Face Gears 	Face gears transmit power at (usually) right angles in a circular motion. They are not very common in industrial application.
Sprockets 	Sprockets are used to run chains or belts. They are typically used in conveyor systems.

Idler or Intermediate Gear

In a sequence of gears chained together, the ratio depends only on the number of teeth on the first and last gear. The intermediate gears, regardless of their size, do not alter the overall gear ratio of the chain. However, the addition of each intermediate gear reverses the direction of rotation of the final gear.

An intermediate gear which does not drive a shaft to perform any work is called an idler gear. Sometimes, a single idler gear is used to reverse the direction, in which case it may be referred to as a reverse idler.

Idler gears can also transmit rotation among distant shafts in situations where it would be impractical to simply make the distant gears larger to bring them together. Not only do larger gears occupy more space, the mass and rotational inertia of a gear is proportional to the square of its radius. Instead of idler gears, a toothed belt or chain can be used to transmit torque over distance.

Work Sheet

Task 1: List the type of gear that is most often used in conveyor systems.

Answer:

Task 2: List the gears that are typically used when power needs to be transmitted 90° or at a right angle.

Answer:

Task 3: Describe the difference between helical gears and spur gears.

Answer:

Task 4: List two features of intermediate gears.

Answer:
