

Talking to Clients: Damp and Condensation – B1/B2

English for Plumbers | Intermediate to Upper Intermediate

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 56

Note: Exercise 8 (Listening) is completed using the interactive online lesson only.

Vocabulary

Term	Meaning	Example
damp	unwanted moisture that has entered or built up inside a wall, floor or ceiling	"There is a damp patch on the bathroom wall that keeps coming back."
condensation	water that forms on cold surfaces when warm moist air cools down	"The black marks on the ceiling are caused by condensation, not a leak."
moisture	water in small amounts, often invisible, present in the air or inside materials	"The moisture reading on this wall is above acceptable levels."
mould	a black or green fungal growth that appears on walls and ceilings in damp conditions	"If the mould keeps returning, there is an ongoing moisture problem."
ventilation	the movement of fresh air through a space to reduce moisture and prevent condensation	"Poor ventilation in the bathroom is the most likely cause."
penetrating damp	damp that enters through an external wall, roof or window from outside	"Penetrating damp usually leaves a horizontal or irregular stain on the wall."
rising damp	damp that travels upward through a wall from the ground	"Rising damp typically affects the lower half of a wall and leaves a tide mark."
membrane	a waterproof layer built into a wall or floor to prevent moisture passing through	"The damp proof membrane under the floor may have failed."
source	the original point where the damp or water is coming from	"We need to identify the source before we can recommend a remedy."
survey	a detailed inspection carried out to assess the extent and cause of a problem	"I would recommend a full damp survey before any remedial work begins."
remedial	describes work carried out to correct or fix an existing problem	"The remedial work will take two days once we identify the cause."
extract	to remove moisture or air from a room using a fan or ventilation system	"Fit an extractor fan to extract the moisture after showering."
humidity	the level of moisture in the air, measured as a percentage	"High humidity in the bathroom is causing the condensation on the mirror."
identify	to find and name the cause or source of a problem	"I need to identify the source of the moisture before I can quote."
structural	relating to the building itself — its walls, floors, roof or foundations	"If the cause is structural, you will need a builder as well as a plumber."

Exercise 1 - True or False?

Read each sentence. Write True or False on the line.

1. Condensation forms when warm moist air comes into contact with a cold surface. _____
2. Rising damp typically affects the upper half of a wall near the ceiling. _____
3. A damp proof membrane is a waterproof layer that prevents moisture passing through. _____
4. Penetrating damp enters a building by travelling upward from the ground. _____
5. Poor ventilation in a bathroom can cause condensation and mould. _____
6. A damp survey is carried out to assess the extent and cause of a moisture problem. _____
7. Remedial work is carried out to prevent future problems before they occur. _____
8. High humidity in a room means there is a high level of moisture in the air. _____

Exercise 2 - Multiple Choice

Circle the correct word or phrase.

1. The black marks on the ceiling are likely to be ____, caused by moisture in the air cooling on the surface.
penetrating damp / condensation / rising damp / structural
2. The stain on the lower part of the wall with a tide mark is a classic sign of ____.
condensation / humidity / ventilation / rising damp
3. Before I can recommend any ____ work, I need to identify the source of the moisture.
survey / extract / remedial / structural
4. I would recommend fitting an extractor fan to ____ the moisture after every shower.
membrane / identify / survey / extract
5. I will carry out a full ____ to measure the moisture levels in each wall.
humidity / mould / source / survey
6. The ____ proof membrane under the floor may have been damaged during the renovation.
ventilation / damp / condensation / structural
7. The ____ in the bathroom is very high. The extractor fan is not working properly.
humidity / membrane / remedial / source
8. If the problem is ____, you will need a builder involved as well as a plumber.
mould / structural / condensation / extract

Exercise 3 - Matching

Match each term (1-8) with the correct description (A-H).

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. condensation ____ | A. Water droplets that form on cold surfaces when warm humid air cools |
| 2. rising damp ____ | B. A systematic inspection to assess the cause and extent of a damp problem |
| 3. penetrating damp ____ | C. The controlled movement of air through a space to reduce moisture levels |
| 4. membrane ____ | D. The concentration of water vapour in the air, expressed as a percentage |

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 5. survey ____ | E. A waterproof barrier built into a wall or floor to block the passage of moisture |
| 6. remedial ____ | F. Describes corrective work carried out to fix an existing problem |
| 7. ventilation ____ | G. Moisture that travels upward through a wall from the ground, leaving a tide mark |
| 8. humidity ____ | H. Moisture that enters a building through an external wall, roof or window from outside |

Exercise 4 - Gap Fill

Write the correct word in each gap. The word is given in brackets.

- I need to _____ the source of the moisture before I can give you a quote. (identify)
- The _____ on the lower wall and the tide mark suggest this is rising damp. (mould)
- Poor _____ is the most common cause of condensation in bathrooms. (ventilation)
- The moisture readings on this wall are high. I recommend a full _____ before we proceed. (survey)
- If the damp proof _____ has failed, the floor will need to be taken up to replace it. (membrane)
- The _____ in this room is at eighty percent. That is far too high. (humidity)
- The irregular stain on the external wall suggests _____ damp coming in from outside. (penetrating)
- All the _____ work should be completed before the decorator comes in. (remedial)

Exercise 5 - Word Order

Put the words in the correct order.

- identify / the / source / to / need / I

- a / full / recommend / I / survey / would

- cause / condensation / the / is / most / likely / The

- fan / to / Fit / humidity / extractor / reduce / an / the

- proof / failed / membrane / The / have / the / may / damp

- be / This / structural / a / could / problem

- starts / Identify / before / the / work / remedial / the / source

- humidity / is / very / high / this / room / the / in

Exercise 6 - Word Sort

Write each term in the correct column.

Terms: rising damp | survey | ventilation | penetrating damp | condensation | mould | membrane | remedial

Types of Damp	Investigation and Remedy
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Exercise 7 - Complete the Conversation

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each gap.

Client: I have noticed a _____ patch on the bathroom wall. It keeps coming back even after I repaint.

(survey / remedial / structural / damp)

Plumber: How long has this been happening, and is the patch getting larger?

Client: About six months. And yes, it is spreading. There is _____ growing on the ceiling too.

(mould / membrane / humidity / ventilation)

Plumber: That suggests an ongoing moisture problem. It could be _____, a plumbing leak, or penetrating damp from outside.

(extract / remedial / survey / condensation)

Client: How do you tell the difference?

Plumber: I use a moisture meter to measure the _____ levels in the wall and check the pattern of the staining.

(membrane / humidity / source / structural)

Plumber: I would recommend a full _____ first so we know exactly what we are dealing with.

(ventilation / extract / mould / survey)

Client: And if it turns out to be a _____ issue with the building, what happens then?

(remedial / structural / condensation / rising damp)

TEACHER ANSWER KEY - DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

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Teacher Answer Key

Note: Exercise 8 (Listening) is online only and not included in this PDF.

Exercise 1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. True

Exercise 2

1. condensation
2. rising damp
3. remedial
4. extract
5. survey
6. damp
7. humidity
8. structural

Exercise 3

1. condensation -> A
2. rising damp -> G
3. penetrating damp -> H
4. membrane -> E
5. survey -> B
6. remedial -> F
7. ventilation -> C
8. humidity -> D

Exercise 4

1. identify
2. mould
3. ventilation
4. survey

- 5. membrane
- 6. humidity
- 7. penetrating
- 8. remedial

Exercise 5

- 1. I need to identify the source
- 2. I would recommend a full survey
- 3. The most likely cause is condensation
- 4. Fit an extractor fan to reduce the humidity
- 5. The damp proof membrane may have failed
- 6. This could be a structural problem
- 7. Identify the source before the remedial work starts
- 8. The humidity in this room is very high

Exercise 6

Types of Damp: condensation, rising damp, penetrating damp, mould
Investigation and Remedy: survey, membrane, ventilation, remedial

Exercise 7

Client: damp
Client: mould
Plumber: condensation
Plumber: humidity
Plumber: survey
Client: structural