

Plumbing Vocabulary

English for Construction | B1/B2 Level

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 56

Vocabulary

Term	Meaning	Example
pressure gauge	an instrument that measures the force of water in a pipe	"Check the pressure gauge before starting the test."
stopcock	a valve that completely stops water flow, usually in an emergency	"Turn the stopcock off to isolate the supply."
backflow	water moving in the wrong direction, back towards the supply	"Install a check valve to prevent backflow."
ballcock	a floating ball mechanism that controls water level in a cistern	"The ballcock is stuck. The cistern keeps filling."
solvent weld	a method of joining plastic pipes using chemical adhesive	"Use solvent weld for a permanent plastic connection."
compression fitting	a connector that joins pipes by gripping and compressing	"Use a compression fitting where you need to disconnect later."
isolation valve	a valve used to cut off water to a specific part of the system	"Fit an isolation valve under every appliance."
overflow pipe	a safety pipe that removes excess water if a tank gets too full	"Water came out of the overflow pipe during the night."
flux	a chemical paste applied before soldering to help the solder bond	"Apply flux to the joint before using the blowtorch."
solder	a metal alloy melted to join copper pipes permanently	"Heat the joint until the solder flows in smoothly."
trap	a U-shaped pipe section that holds water to block sewer gas	"The smell is coming from a dry trap under the basin."
manifold	a pipe system with multiple outlets distributing water to several circuits	"Each underfloor circuit connects to the manifold."

Exercise 1 – True or False?

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

1. A pressure gauge measures the force of water inside a pipe. _____
2. A stopcock is used to increase water pressure in a system. _____
3. Backflow means water moving in the wrong direction towards the supply. _____
4. Flux is applied to copper pipe after soldering to clean the joint. _____

5. A trap holds water to prevent sewer gases from entering a building. _____
6. A manifold connects multiple circuits to a single distribution point. _____
7. An overflow pipe is used to increase water pressure in a tank. _____
8. Solvent weld is a method of permanently joining plastic pipes. _____

Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

Circle the correct word or phrase.

1. The reading on the ____ is too high. Reduce the system pressure before proceeding.
overflow pipe / trap / ballcock / pressure gauge
2. We need to isolate this section. Turn the ____ to cut off the supply.
solder / manifold / stopcock / flux
3. Fit a check valve at this point to prevent ____ into the mains supply.
pressure / solder / backflow / trap
4. Apply ____ to the copper joint before heating it with the torch.
backflow / solvent weld / overflow pipe / flux
5. The ____ is not floating correctly. The cistern will not stop filling.
ballcock / isolation valve / trap / manifold
6. Each circuit in the underfloor system is connected to the central ____.
stopcock / ballcock / manifold / overflow pipe
7. Use a ____ on this joint — you may need to access it again later.
flux / solder / compression fitting / solvent weld
8. There is a smell from the drain. The ____ under the basin has dried out.
manifold / stopcock / trap / ballcock

Exercise 3 – Matching

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. pressure gauge ____ | A. A distribution unit that supplies water to several separate circuits at once |
| 2. stopcock ____ | B. Water travelling backwards towards the source instead of away from it |
| 3. backflow ____ | C. An instrument that shows the force of water moving through a pipe |
| 4. isolation valve ____ | D. A chemical bonding method used to permanently join plastic pipes |
| 5. overflow pipe ____ | E. A safety outlet that carries away water if a tank becomes too full |
| 6. solvent weld ____ | F. A valve turned to cut off the entire water supply in an emergency |
| 7. flux ____ | G. A valve fitted to allow a single appliance to be shut off without affecting the rest |
| 8. manifold ____ | H. A paste applied to copper before heat is used to help the joining material flow |

Exercise 4 – Gap Fill

Write the correct word in each gap.

1. The _____ was showing 4 bar, which is too high for a domestic system. (pressure gauge)
2. Turn the _____ off immediately — there is a major leak on the ground floor. (stopcock)
3. The engineer installed a check valve to stop _____ contaminating the mains. (backflow)
4. Clean the copper surface and brush on the _____ before you apply heat. (flux)
5. The _____ in the cistern was stuck in the open position all night. (ballcock)
6. All six underfloor circuits connect back to the _____ in the utility room. (manifold)
7. The _____ under the kitchen sink had dried out, which caused the smell. (trap)
8. Fit an _____ under the basin so the plumber can service it without draining the system. (isolation valve)

Exercise 5 – Word Order

Put the words in the correct order.

1. you / Check / work / pressure / start / gauge / before / the

2. stopcock / the / Turn / off / immediately

3. Fit / prevent / valve / to / a / check / backflow

4. joint / Apply / to / flux / the / copper

5. and / cistern / The / ballcock / the / filling / is / stuck / keeps

6. All / the / manifold / connect / the / to / circuits

7. isolation / valve / under / appliance / a / Install / every

8. causing / dried / out / the / had / The / smell / trap

Exercise 6 – Word Sort

Write each term in the correct column.

Terms: overflow pipe | solder | flux | isolation valve | stopcock | compression fitting | solvent weld | pressure gauge

Joining & Sealing	Control & Safety
_____	_____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Exercise 7 – Complete the Conversation

Choose the correct term to complete the conversation.

Word bank: isolation valve | backflow | flux | trap | pressure gauge

Site Engineer: Have you checked the _____ on the heating circuit?

Plumber: Yes, it was showing 3.2 bar. That seems fine for this system.

Site Engineer: Good. Did you fit the _____ under each appliance as specified?

Plumber: All done. Every appliance has one. Easy to service later.

Site Engineer: There was a _____ report from the inspection last week. Is that fixed?

Plumber: Yes. We fitted check valves at the main entry points yesterday.

Site Engineer: And the copper joints — did you use _____ before soldering?

Plumber: Always. Every joint was cleaned and fluxed before the torch went on.

Site Engineer: One more thing — the smell in the basement. Check the _____ under the floor drain.

Plumber: I will pour water down it to refill it. That should clear the smell.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Plumbing Vocabulary – B1/B2

Teacher Answer Key

Exercise 1 – True or False

1. True
2. False — a stopcock cuts off water flow completely
3. True
4. False — flux is applied before soldering
5. True
6. True
7. False — an overflow pipe removes excess water for safety
8. True

Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

1. pressure gauge
2. stopcock
3. backflow
4. flux
5. ballcock
6. manifold
7. compression fitting
8. trap

Exercise 3 – Matching

1. pressure gauge → C
2. stopcock → F
3. backflow → B
4. isolation valve → G
5. overflow pipe → E
6. solvent weld → D
7. flux → H
8. manifold → A

Exercise 4 – Gap Fill

1. pressure gauge
2. stopcock
3. backflow
4. flux
5. ballcock
6. manifold

7. trap
8. isolation valve

Exercise 5 – Word Order

1. Check the pressure gauge before you start work
2. Turn the stopcock off immediately
3. Fit a check valve to prevent backflow
4. Apply flux to the copper joint
5. The ballcock is stuck and the cistern keeps filling
6. All the circuits connect to the manifold
7. Install an isolation valve under every appliance
8. The trap had dried out causing the smell

Exercise 6 – Word Sort

Joining & Sealing: solvent weld, compression fitting, flux, solder

Control & Safety: stopcock, isolation valve, overflow pipe, pressure gauge

Exercise 7 – Conversation

- Gap 1: pressure gauge
Gap 2: isolation valve
Gap 3: backflow
Gap 4: flux
Gap 5: trap