

CNC for beginners/CNC dla początkujących

I ran into Ed Winters, my neighbor from down the street, at the mall, and this is how our conversation went:

Wojtek Wiśniewski (that's me): Hi, Ed. What's up?

Ed Winters (that's my neighbor): Same old thing – work, commuting, things to do around the house, family, TV, and then it's back to work the next day. But I see you're keeping busy, always running off somewhere. Got a girlfriend on the side, ha-ha!?

W.W.: Naw, but I'm taking classes, and what with my job that keeps me pretty busy.

E.W.: English classes? Your English is pretty good. You have only a slight accent.

W.W.: Yes and no. I'm improving my English the whole time, but I'm taking a CNC course at Well Done.

E.W.: A what? You mean GMC?

W.W.: No, CNC – Computerized Numerical Control.

E.W.: In plain English, please. Don't forget, I'm an historian, liberal arts and the like. I'm a real dunce when it comes to technology.

W.W.: OK. I'll keep it simple. You know what machine tools are, don't you?

E.W.: Yeah, like lathes and milling machines.

W.W.: Exactly! And such machines take a piece of metal and machine it. That means they cut it down to the required size, stamp, drill, bend or turn it to produce whatever object is needed. Well, originally they were hand-operated by a skilled worker. Later they were numerically controlled through the use of perforated paper tape and punch cards, and finally they were computerized.

E.W.: OK, so if the computer does all the work, why do you have to take a course?

W.W.: The computer does a lot of the work, but it is also a machine. The main difference is that greater knowledge is required to operate it. The one using a manual machine tool was a skilled worker, but the one involved in CNC machining has to be more like a computer programmer or engineer.

E.W.: All I know about computers is e-mailing and net-surfing.... So they teach you that CNC stuff at that, what did you call it, Well Born?

W.W.: Well Done. It's called the Well Done Technical Center. It teaches the operators of traditional manual machines how to **update** their skills and **graduate** to numerically controlled equipment.

E.W.: Is it **geared** mainly to Polish people?

W.W.: That's right. That's the whole idea – to help **newcomers adjust** to modern American industry. Instruction is in Polish, but students are introduced to American terminology from the very beginning.

E.W.: What happens when you complete your course work?

W.W.: Those who graduate have no trouble finding well-paying jobs in industry. When I first arrived in Chicago I was doing **menial labor**, lugging crates and loading trucks, even though in Poland I had been working as a skilled technician. But a friend told me about Well Done, I decided to **look into** it and now I'm **on my way**.

E.W.: I wish you luck. Hey, what's say we get a cup of coffee?

W.W.: Sounds good.

VOCABULARY – SŁOWNICZEK

commuting – dojeżdżanie do pracy; **GMC** – spotykający się ze skrótem CNC po raz pierwszy pomylił go z marką ciężarówek General Motors; **liberal arts** – humanistyka, przedmioty nietechniczne; **dunce** – tępak, (dosłownie) siedzący na oślej ławce; **machine tool** – obrabiarka; **lathe** – tokarka; **milling machine** – frezarka; **perforated paper tape** – perforowana taśma papierowa; **punch card** – karta perforowana; **e-mailing** – mailowanie; **net-surfing** – surfowanie po Internecie; **update** – aktualizować, uwspółcześniać; **graduate** – (zazwyczaj) ukończyć szkołę, (tu) wejść na wyższy poziom; **geared** – przeznaczony; **newcomer** – nowo przybyły, nowicjusz; **adjust** – dostosować się; **menial labor** – prosta praca fizyczna; **look into** – sprawdzić, zbadać; **on one's way** – na dobrej drodze.
