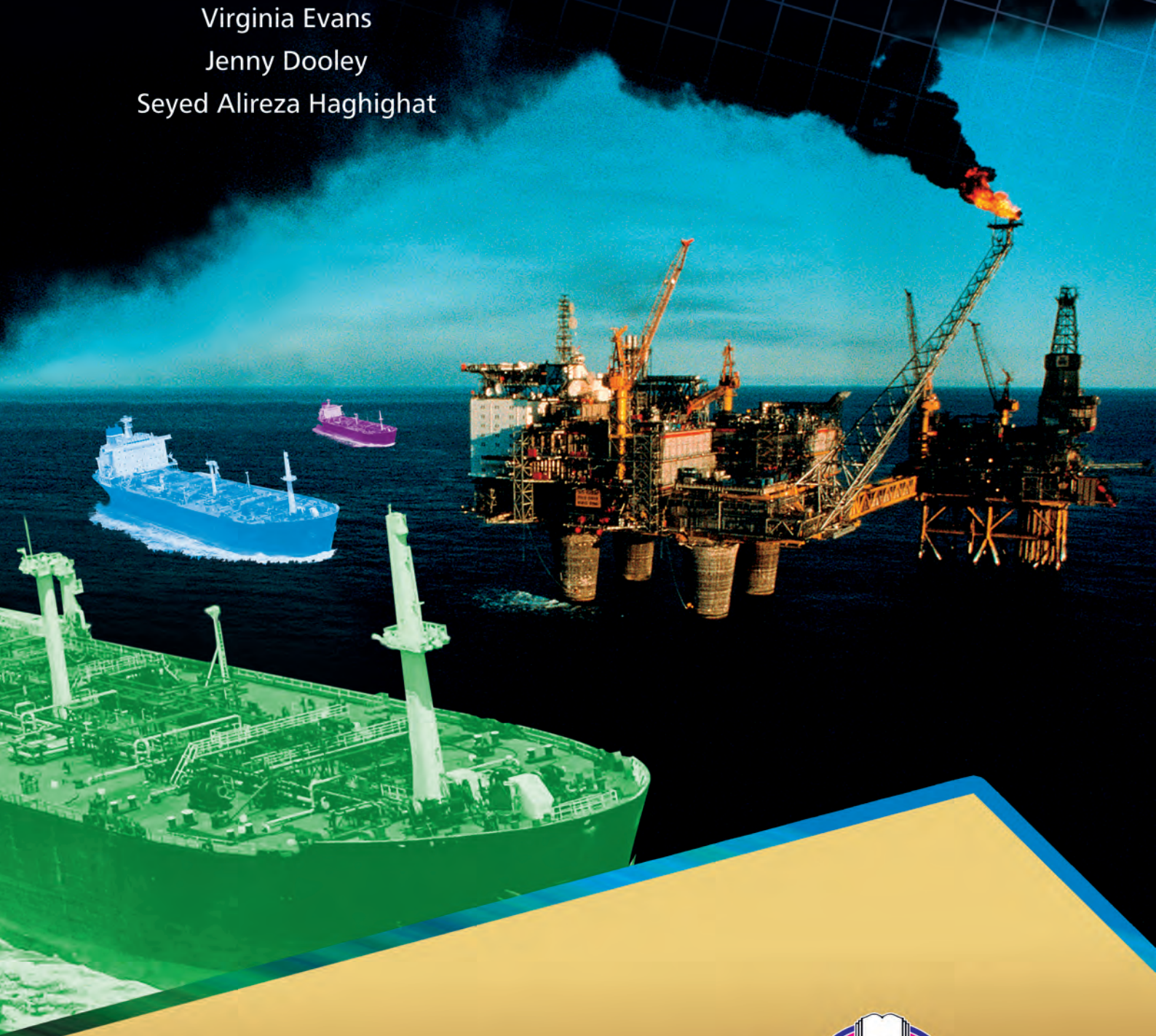


**CAREER  
PATHS**

# Petroleum I

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RIGWORKERWEEKLY

## Slinging Slang

One challenge new rig workers face is language. **Hands** don't think twice about using words like **possum belly**, **pill** or **flare**. They might think it's funny when the new guy confuses a **catwalk** with a **catline** or **wildcat**.

Most new workers get the idea of **fish** and **fishing**. However, other terms are not as clear. **Doghouse** and **knowledge box** are two such terms. In addition, most new hires do not know that **joint** is a length of pipe. Take the time to explain rig slang to new employees. It makes things easier when everyone is on the same page.

### Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What is the slang word for an experienced worker on an oil rig?
- 2 What is slang for a platform on a rig?

### Reading

2 Read the magazine article from *Rig Worker Weekly*. Then mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1  New rig workers can be confused by slang.
- 2  It is hard to guess the meaning of some terms.
- 3  New workers need to figure out the slang on their own.

### Vocabulary

4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

word BANK

catline    doghouse    fishing  
flare    knowledge box    pill

- 1 The rig crew stayed in the \_\_\_\_\_ during the storm.
- 2 The toolpusher took some paperwork out of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The roughneck used a \_\_\_\_\_ to stop a leak.
- 4 Denise used a \_\_\_\_\_ to move the smaller equipment.
- 5 The worker tried \_\_\_\_\_ for the broken drill bit.
- 6 Bruce used a \_\_\_\_\_ to burn off the gas.

**4** Read the sentences and choose the correct terms.

- 1 The **hand** / **fish** worked hard to finish the job.
- 2 The rig had a large **catwalk** / **possum belly** that was used for storing fluid.
- 3 The crew working on the **wildcat** / **joint** well hoped to find oil.
- 4 The workers ran out of pipe, so they had to order more **joints** / **hands**.
- 5 The men tried to retrieve the **possum belly** / **fish** but it was out of reach.
- 6 The roughneck crossed the **catwalk** / **wildcat** to talk to the toolpusher.

**5** Listen and read the magazine article from *Rig Worker Weekly* again. How should an experienced rig worker help a new hire?

## Listening

**6** Listen to a conversation between two rig workers. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What can be inferred about the new worker?  
A He is confused by terms used on the rig.  
B He is not dressed for bad weather.  
C He is familiar with some slang terms.  
D He is going to go inside the doghouse.
- 2 What will the workers likely do next?  
A fasten together the joints    C go to the doghouse  
B take a tour of the rig floor    D move the drilling pipe

**7** Listen again and complete the conversation.

**Experienced Worker:** Hey, can you help me move some joints?  
**New Worker:** Uh ... 1 \_\_\_\_\_ joints?  
**Experienced Worker:** You must be new.  
**New Worker:** Yes, I've never 2 \_\_\_\_\_ a rig before.  
**Experienced Worker:** Okay. Well, joints are pieces of 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
**New Worker:** Thanks. I'd be 4 \_\_\_\_\_ help. So ... is the weather usually this bad?  
**Experienced Worker:** Today's not so great, but we can always go in the 5 \_\_\_\_\_ if it starts to rain.  
**New Worker:** What's that?  
**Experienced Worker:** It's a shelter on the 6 \_\_\_\_\_. Now let's get to work.

## Speaking

**8** With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

**USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:**

Can you help me ...?  
What are ...?  
Do you know what ...?

**Student A:** You are an experienced rig worker. Talk to Student B about:

- the kind of help you need
- oil rig language
- how to deal with bad weather

**Student B:** You are a new worker. Talk to Student A about working on the rig.

## Writing

**9** Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the rig worker's notes below.



Rig Worker's Notes

Slang  
to remember

Knowledge box: \_\_\_\_\_

Pill: \_\_\_\_\_

Wildcat: \_\_\_\_\_