

TSAI ELECTRO ENTRY KIT · FREE SAMPLE

Houston Starter Pages

Six real pages from the Texas Electrical Apprenticeship Entry Kit: the Start Here 7-day checklist, your Houston 30-day plan, the Houston JATC card, the 10 Houston contractors that name apprentice or helper roles on their careers pages, a diagnostic page and a mock-interview page.

Every program fact checked on the program's own site on October 8, 2026. The full kit has 5 modules, 1,000 math and 108 reading practice questions, and a contractor spreadsheet.

Program names belong to their owners. Tsai Electro is an independent guide built from each program's public pages.

Start here: your first 7 days

One page, one task list. Tick each box as you go. Outside Houston? Use "Your metro: who to call this week" for your programs and the contractor spreadsheet for your county.

Day	Goal	Do this	Done
Day 1	Get your license and your transcript moving	• Apply for the TDLR Apprentice Electrician License online: US\$20, no exam (next page). • Ask your high school to send a sealed official transcript with your Algebra credit to Houston Electrical JATC. It is accepted during the application closure.	☐
Day 2	Find your starting level	• Take the 12-question diagnostic in Module 3, no calculator. • Use its "Where to start" box to pick your lesson and Practice Bank level.	☐
Day 3	Pick your path	• Read "Three ways in" in this module and circle test first, hired first, or both. • Read "How you are actually ranked" in Module 2.	☐
Day 4	Get your resume ready	• Fill in the one-page resume in Module 5 with your true details. • Print 10 copies and save a PDF on your phone.	☐
Day 5	Make your first 5 calls	• Call the first 5 of the 10 Houston contractors in Module 5 that name apprentice or helper roles on their careers pages. • Use the 30-second phone script. Log every call in the tracker.	☐
Day 6	Set your interview baseline	• Answer the 8 mock-interview questions in Module 4 out loud, timed. • Score yourself with the 1-5 scale and pick your two weakest answers to fix.	☐
Day 7	Plan week 2	• Call the other 5 on that list. License active? Apply in person at IEC Texas Gulf Coast. • Book 30 minutes a day for Module 3 and put Simulation A on your calendar for the end of week 2.	☐

By day 7 you have

- A license receipt and a transcript on its way
- Your test level and a study plan
- A resume and your first 5 contractor calls logged
- A scored interview baseline

Houston: your next 30 days

Facts come from the program's own pages. Recommendations are ours; adjust them to your situation.

Type	What
FACT	Houston Electrical JATC applications are closed Aug 1 - Oct 31, 2026; official transcripts are still accepted during the closure.
FACT	Houston JATC requires one full credit of high school Algebra on an official transcript and a current TDLR Apprentice Electrician License.
FACT	About 10 applicants compete for each opening; apprentices are selected from the ranking list by interview score.
FACT	Galveston Electrical JATC (IBEW Local 527, Texas City) accepts applications year round, in person Tuesday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM.
FACT	ABC Greater Houston/CMEF registration asks for a company name and a supervisor signature.
FACT	IEC Texas Gulf Coast takes employment applications in person (Mon-Thu 8-5, Fri 9-1) once you hold an active apprentice license, and connects applicants with member contractors that are hiring. Classes start September and January.
OUR ADVICE	Week 1: apply for the TDLR license (\$20) and have your school send the sealed transcript to the JATC now.
OUR ADVICE	Week 1-2: apply in person at Galveston JATC with every document in hand, so you are in a JATC pipeline while Houston is closed.
OUR ADVICE	Weeks 1-4: 30 minutes of Module 3 a day; take Simulation A in week 2 and B in week 4.
OUR ADVICE	Week 2: as soon as your license is active, apply in person at IEC Texas Gulf Coast, 601 N. Shepherd Dr., Suite 330.
OUR ADVICE	Weeks 1-4: call 10 Harris County contractors a week from the Module 5 list; a helper job gives you hours and an employer for CMEF or IEC.
OUR ADVICE	After Oct 31: check houstonjatc.com and apply the same week the application is open.
OUR ADVICE	Weekly: practice the Module 4 mock interview out loud with a friend.

IEC Texas Gulf Coast (601 N. Shepherd Dr., Suite 330) takes employment applications in person once you hold the TDLR apprentice license; the chapter then sets up interviews with member contractors that are hiring.

Program cards

TEST FIRST

Houston Electrical JATC

IBEW Local 716 / NECA · Houston

How you get in	Apply to the JATC, pass the Electrical Training Alliance aptitude test, interview with the Apprenticeship Committee, then wait on the ranking list. The JATC places you with a contractor.
Entrance test	Electrical Training Alliance aptitude test. A qualifying score gets you an interview.
You need	18+, high school diploma or GED, one full credit of high school Algebra on an official sealed transcript, and a current TDLR Apprentice Electrician License.
Cost to you	Application cost is being updated. The JATC says it spends about \$4,500 per apprentice per year and that you pay minimal tuition.
When	Applications are CLOSED Aug 1 - Oct 31, 2026. Transcripts are still accepted during the closure. The committee interviews and accepts year-round, monthly.
Starting pay	\$17.33/hr starting (published on the JATC FAQ).

Pro tip: About 10 applicants compete for each opening, and you are selected from the ranking list by interview score. Order your sealed transcript now so you are ready when applications reopen.

Contact: 108 Covern Street, Houston, TX 77061 · (713) 649-2739 · staff@houstonjatc.com

Official source: <https://www.houstonjatc.com/how-to-apply> (checked October 8, 2026)

TEST FIRST

Galveston Electrical JATC

IBEW Local 527 · Houston area (Texas City)

How you get in	Apply in person with every document in hand. Apprentices accepted into the program are placed with an electrical contractor for full employment and attend school two nights a week in the fall and spring semesters.
Entrance test	The test and score are not listed on the JATC page; ask the apprenticeship office when you apply.
You need	18+; high school diploma or GED; an official unopened transcript showing one full credit of Algebra I; driver's license or state ID; Social Security card; birth certificate; able to safely perform on-the-job training. Know TDLR's apprentice electrician license rule.
Cost to you	Ask the apprenticeship office (not listed on the page).
When	Open now: applications accepted year round, in person Tuesday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM.
Starting pay	Full employment with an electrical contractor while you train (rate set by the program).

Pro tip: While Houston Electrical JATC is closed until October 31, 2026, Galveston JATC in Texas City takes applications now. Bring all documents on the first visit. Graduation takes 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 900 classroom hours.

Contact: 2509 FM 2004, Texas City, TX 77591 · (409) 933-9800 ext. 3 (Apprenticeship Office) · galvestonjatc@outlook.com

Official source: <http://www.ibew527.com/apprenticeship.html> (checked October 9, 2026)

Houston: call these 10 first

We checked 29 Harris County electrical contractors one by one on October 8, 2026. Every one holds an active TDLR license and 20 appear in the public ABC Greater Houston member directory. These 10 say on their own careers page that they hire apprentices, helpers or people with no experience. Start here.

Contractor	Phone	ABC member	What their careers page says	Careers page
Bayou City Industrial Contractors Ltd.	(281) 842-9110	yes	I&E Helper	bayoucityind.com
Colwell Electric	(713) 849-4427	yes	Apprentices: No license required, but must have strong mechanical aptitude and a willingness to learn	colwellelectric.com
Contech Control Services Inc	(281) 471-8010	yes	ELECTRICAL HELPER	contech.applicantstack.com
Enterprise Electrical	(832) 683-6533	yes	Apprentice Commercial Electrician - Houston , TX	apply.workable.com
Force Corporation	(281) 470-0550	yes	Electrician Apprentice	forcecorp.net
Hays Electrical Services, Inc	(281) 601-4866	yes	four-year registered program that combines classroom instruction with hands-on field experience	hayselectrical.com
S & B Engineers and Constructors, Ltd.	(713) 845-4548	yes	on site helper progression	sbec.com
Electrical Masters Company Inc	(832) 970-3101		No prior experience is needed. What matters most is your willingness to learn and your commitment to the process.	electricalmasterscompany.com
Kenmor Electric Company LP	(281) 808-2700		Apprentice Electrician	kenmor.com
Kilgore Industries LP	(281) 728-5333		During the program, apprentices get exposure to different areas while developing their professional skills on the job	kilgoreind.com

When a careers page says "no license required"

It means you do not need a journeyman license to apply. You still need your own TDLR Apprentice Electrician License (US\$20 online) before your first day on a job site.

Sources: TDLR "All Licenses" public data; ABC Greater Houston public member directory; each company's own careers page, all read October 8, 2026. ABC members can sponsor apprentices into ABC/CMEF craft training.

Diagnostic - Page 1

Work without a calculator. Difficulty rises from easy to hard.

1. Compute and simplify: $\frac{3}{4} + \frac{7}{16}$ **EASY**

- A. $\frac{5}{8}$
- C. $\frac{1}{2}$

- B. $\frac{19}{16}$
- D. $\frac{21}{64}$

2. Which inequality is the solution of $x - 13 < 9$? **EASY**

- A. $x > 22$
- C. $x \leq 22$

- B. $x < -4$
- D. $x < 22$

3. If $g(2) = 5$ and $f(x) = 2x + 6$, find $f(g(2))$. **EASY**

- A. 10
- C. 16

- B. 13
- D. 22

4. Find the next term of this alternating-step pattern: 14, 22, 20, 28, 26, ____ **EASY**

- A. 32
- C. 24

- B. 36
- D. 34

5. Which equation, in slope-intercept form, describes the line through $(-5, -3)$ and $(1, 9)$? **MEDIUM**

- A. $y = 2x - 13$
- C. $y = -2x - 13$

- B. $y = 2x - 3$
- D. $y = 2x + 7$

6. Evaluate $3x^2 + 8x + 3$ when $x = -6$. **MEDIUM**

- A. 63
- C. -81

- B. -153
- D. 159

A full mock interview, start to finish

Eight questions, about 12 minutes: the length SOTX JATC publishes (10-15 minutes). This mock uses a second career changer, a warehouse team lead, so you hear the same scoring points from a different background. Read the answers out loud once, then write your own version with your real facts. Notes in blue explain why each answer scores high.

Panel: Tell us a little about yourself.

You: I'm 26 and I've worked at a distribution warehouse in north Houston for four years, the last two as night-shift team lead for eight people. I'm forklift certified, I run our cycle counts, and I haven't missed a shift this year. Since March I've been getting ready for this: I got my TDLR apprentice license, finished an algebra refresher at the community college, and practiced for the aptitude test four nights a week.

Why it scores: Under 90 seconds, ends on the apprenticeship, and every claim is something the panel can check.

Panel: Why do you want to be an electrician?

You: Our building added a conveyor line last year, and I spent two nights moving pallets for the electricians who wired it. I watched them read the drawings and test every circuit before anyone switched it on. Warehouse work keeps me busy, but I'm doing the same job I did four years ago. I want a trade where I'm better every year and can point to what I built.

Why it scores: A specific moment, a real reason, no talk about money first. Scores on interest.

Panel: How did you prepare for the aptitude test?

You: I took a diagnostic first and saw that functions and word problems were my weak spots. I studied 45 minutes, four nights a week, for eight weeks, kept a list of every mistake, and redid those problems on Sundays. My score went up on each of my three timed practice tests.

Why it scores: A plan, numbers and follow-through. Scores on math background and attitude.

Panel: Tell us about a time you made a mistake at work.

You: I once signed off a trailer count without walking it myself because we were behind. We were twelve cartons short, and I told my manager before the shift ended. We found them on the next trailer. Now I never sign for anything I haven't checked, and I teach new hires the same rule.

Why it scores: Owns the mistake, fixes it, and shows the habit that came out of it. Scores on character.