Spelling

The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, twelfth edition, is the current authority for spelling in the United Nations. If more than one spelling is given in the dictionary, use the form listed first unless otherwise indicated below. The online Oxford Dictionary (https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/) (set to British and World English) is an acceptable alternative.

The United Nations spelling list is designed to serve as a quick reference for common words and compounds for which there may be more than one possible spelling. Some words commonly used in United Nations documents that are not in the twelfth edition of the dictionary are included in the list for ease of reference. For further guidance, see also *Abbreviations and acronyms* and *Capitalization in English*.

Foreign words listed in the twelfth edition or included in the list below are not italicized in United Nations documents. Foreign words that are not listed in that edition or included in the list, however, are italicized.

Non-English names of organizations, firms, ministries and the like are not italicized.

Fractions expressed in words are not hyphenated (e.g. one third of the total) unless they are used as adjectives (e.g. one-third share).

The abbreviation “adj.” is used to indicate compound adjectives that are hyphenated when they precede a noun (e.g. She had a fixed-term contract). Otherwise they are normally not hyphenated (e.g. The contract was for a fixed term).

Compound adjectives in which the first word ends in –ly are not hyphenated (e.g. environmentally sustainable growth).

*Notes:*
* Indicates a change from previous practice.
** Indicates an exception to the twelfth edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*.
*** Indicates both a change from previous practice and an exception to the twelfth edition.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>above-mentioned</td>
<td>airfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>abridgement</td>
<td>airfield</td>
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<td>acknowledgement</td>
<td>airfreight</td>
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<td>addenda</td>
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<td>ad hoc</td>
<td>air raid</td>
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<td>ad infinitum</td>
<td>airspace</td>
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<td>ad litem</td>
<td>air strike</td>
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<td>adviser</td>
<td>air traffic control</td>
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<td>aeroplane</td>
<td>AK-47</td>
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<td>aesthetic</td>
<td>allot, allotted, allotment</td>
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<td>aforementioned</td>
<td>Al-Qaida</td>
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<td>Afrodescendant (noun) (preferred: person of African descent)</td>
<td>aluminium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afrodescendent (adj.) (preferred: of African descent)</td>
<td>among (not “amongst”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>after: compound forms are closed except:</td>
<td>anaemia</td>
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<td>after-effect</td>
<td>anaesthetic</td>
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<td>after-image</td>
<td>analogue (but analog in computer technology)</td>
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<td>age-appropriate (adj.)</td>
<td>analyse</td>
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<td>ageing</td>
<td>antenatal</td>
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<td>ageism</td>
<td>antennae (insects)</td>
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<tr>
<td>age-selective (adj.)</td>
<td>antennas (aerials)</td>
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<td>age-specific (adj.)</td>
<td>anti-abortion</td>
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<td>agribusiness</td>
<td>anti-aircraft</td>
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<td>agrifood</td>
<td>antifertility</td>
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<td>agriscience</td>
<td>anti-inflammatory</td>
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<td>agritourism</td>
<td>antimalarial</td>
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<td>agroecological</td>
<td>antimicrobial</td>
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<td>agroecosystem</td>
<td>anti-money-laundering (adj.; not to be used as a noun)</td>
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<td>agroforestry</td>
<td>antinatalism, antinatalist</td>
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<td>agro-industry</td>
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<td>agropastoral</td>
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<td>agroterrorism</td>
<td>a posteriori</td>
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<td>aides-memoires</td>
<td>appal, appalled, appalling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)</td>
<td>appendices</td>
</tr>
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<td>airbag</td>
<td>a priori</td>
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<tr>
<td>air conditioner, air conditioning (noun)</td>
<td>armory</td>
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<tr>
<td>air-conditioned, air-conditioning (adj.)</td>
<td>artefact</td>
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<tr>
<td>aircraft (singular and plural)</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary-General (plural: Assistant Secretaries-General)</td>
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<tr>
<td>aircrew</td>
<td>*asylum seeker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airdrop</td>
<td>asylum-seeking (adj.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*asylum seeker*
*audiovisual
auditor general
avant-garde
awareness-raising (noun and adj.)
ayatollah

B

Baath party, Baathist
baby boom (noun)
baby-boom (adj.)
back-calculation procedure
backstop (verb and noun)
back up (verb)
backup (noun and adj.)
backward (adj.)
backwards (adv.)
balance of payments (noun)
balance-of-payments (adj.)
balance sheet
bandwidth
baseline
base-year (adj.)
bednet
Bedouin (singular and plural)
beforehand
behaviour
benefited, benefiting
bi: compound forms are closed (see also “Ambiguous terms” under Numbers, dates and time):
   biannual (twice a year)
   biennial (every second year)
   **bienniums
   bimonthly (every two months)
   biweekly (every two weeks)
biased
bio: compound forms are closed
biocoenosis
birth control
birth rate
bis
bitcoin
BlackBerry
blacklist (verb and noun)
blockchain
blood-borne
blood-brain barrier
bond market
bookkeeping
bottleneck
brain drain
break away (verb)
breakaway (noun and adj.)
break down (verb)
breakdown (noun)
breakthrough
break up (verb)
break-up (noun)
breastfeed
bride price
bride wealth
Brigadier General
broad band, broad banding (verb and noun, in ICSC documents)
broad-banded, broad-banding (adj., in ICSC documents)
broadband (telecommunications)
build up (verb)
build-up (noun)
bureaux
burka
burned (not “burnt”)
businessperson
buy-back (noun)
buy-in (noun)
by-catch
by-law
by-product
bystander

calibre
cancelled, cancelling
canvas (cloth)
canvass (to solicit)
capacity-building (noun and adj.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>capital (city, money)</th>
<th>classroom</th>
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<tr>
<td>Capitol (building)</td>
<td>clearing house</td>
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<td>caregiver</td>
<td>closed-end (adj.)</td>
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<td>care provider</td>
<td>co-chair</td>
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<td>caretaker</td>
<td>coequal</td>
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<td>CarLog</td>
<td>coexist</td>
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<td>carry over (verb)</td>
<td>cofactor</td>
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<td>carry-over (noun)</td>
<td>cogeneration</td>
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<td>carte blanche</td>
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<td>case-by-case (adj.)</td>
<td>cold war</td>
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<td>case-fatality rate</td>
<td>co-locate</td>
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<td>case law</td>
<td>colloquiums</td>
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<td>caseload</td>
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<td>case study</td>
<td>combatant</td>
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<td>catalogue</td>
<td>combated, combating</td>
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<td>catalyse</td>
<td>Commissioner-General</td>
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<td>cathode ray tube</td>
<td>common law (noun)</td>
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<td>CD-ROM</td>
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<td>ceasefire (noun and adj.)</td>
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<td>compendiums</td>
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<td>centre, centred, centring</td>
<td>connection</td>
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<td>Chair-designate</td>
<td>contingent-owned equipment</td>
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<td>channelled, channelling</td>
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<td>charge-back</td>
<td>cooperate, cooperation</td>
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<td>chargé d’affaires (singular invariable; plural: chargés d’affaires)</td>
<td>coordinate, coordination</td>
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<td>chat room</td>
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<td>copy-edit</td>
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<td>copy editor</td>
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<td>cornerstone</td>
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<td>chef de cabinet (plural: chefs de cabinet)</td>
<td>corrigenda</td>
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<td>cheque (bank)</td>
<td>cost accounting</td>
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<td>chequebook</td>
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<td>childbearing</td>
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<td>childbirth</td>
<td>cost-of-living index</td>
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<td>child-sensitive (adj.)</td>
<td>councillor</td>
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<td>child spacing</td>
<td>counsel (verb and noun, singular and plural)</td>
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<td>chlorofluorocarbons</td>
<td>counselling, counsellor</td>
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counterargument
counter-attack
counterbalance
countercharge
counterclaim
counterclockwise
counterculture
countercyclical
counterdemonstration
counter-espionage
counter-example
counter-guarantee
counter-insurgency
counter-intelligence
counter-intuitive
countermeasure
counter-narcotics
counteroffensive
counterpoint
counterproductive
counterproliferation
counterproposal
counter-revolution
**counter-terrorism
countertrade
counter-urbanization
countryside
countrywide
coup d'état (plural: coups d'état)
couple-years
co-worker
creditworthiness
cropland
cross-country
cross-cutting
cross-reference (verb)
cross reference (noun)
cross section
cross-sectoral
cross-tabulation
crowdsourced, crowdsourcing
crypto: compound forms are closed
curricula
curriculum vitae (plural: curricula vitae)
cut back (verb)
cutback (noun)
cut off (verb)
cut-off (noun and adj.)
cyber: compound forms are closed

darknet
databank
database
data-collection (adj.)
data processing (noun)
data-processing (adj.)
data processor
data set
day care (noun)
day-care (adj.)
*dead weight
**deafblind
death rate
decies or deciens
decision maker
decision-making (noun and adj.)
de-emphasize
de facto
defence (but United States Department of
Defense, Israel Defense Forces)
de jure
delink
*delist
demagogy
démarche
demining
demographic-economic model
dependant (noun)
dependent (adj.)
depository (person or entity with which a
treaty is deposited)
depository (warehouse)
derestricted
desiccate
desktop
détente
diarrhoea
dieback (noun)
digitize
diktat
*Director General (plural: Directors General) (but Director-General of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi)
disc (but disk in computer technology)
discreet (prudent)
discrete (separate)
dispatch
donor dependence
donor-dependent (adj.)
donor-funded (adj.)
dot-com
dot-org
doubling time
down payment
downstream
downward (adj. and adv.)
draft (text)
draught (air and animal)
draw down (verb)
drawdown (noun)
drift net (noun)
drift-net (adj.)
drinking water
drop out (verb)
dropout (noun and adj.)
drug dealer
drug dealing
drug-taking
drug trafficking
drug user
drug-using (adj.)
dry land (land as opposed to sea)
dryland(s) (type of ecosystem)
**dunum
dwelling unit
dysfunctional

E

e-: compound forms are hyphenated, except:

*email

and where the second element begins with a capital letter:

eDoc
eLUNa
eMeets
ePAS
eRef
early-initiation (adj.)
early warning system
earmark
east(ern) (a geographical direction or an area within a country)
East(ern) (a major region, e.g. East Africa, Eastern Europe)
east-north-east, east-south-east
eastward
eco-friendly
eco-label, eco-labelling
ecosystem
ecotourism
eco-warrior
ecozone
**Eid al-Adha
**Eid al-Fitr
*email
embargoes
émigré
encyclopedia
endeavour
endogenization
end product
end result
*end user
energy-efficient
enquire, enquiry (referring to a request for information) (cf. inquire)
enrol, enrolled, enrolling, enrolment
en route
enterprise resource planning (not hyphenated)
equalled, equalling
equipped, equipping
euro, euros
Eurobond
*eurozone
ever-marry (adj.)
everyday (adj.)
every day (adv.)
exaggerate
Excel
ex gratia
ex officio
exorbitant
expel, expelled, expelling
export-processing zone
exposé
ex post facto
extrabudgetary
***extracurricular
extrajudicial
extralegal
extramarital
extranet
extraregional
extraterritorial
*extrauterine
eyewitness

F

fact-finding
fait accompli
fall-off (noun)
fall out (verb)
fallout (noun)
family-life (adj.)
family planning (noun and adj.)
farmland
far-reaching
favour
feedback
*fetus, fetal

fibreglass
fibre-optic (adj.)
fibre optics (noun)
field trip
fieldwork, fieldworker
fine-tune
firearm
firebomb
fire-control (adj.)
fire engine
firefight
firefighter
firefighting
firehouse
first-hand (adj. and adv.)
fixed-period (adj.)
fixed-wing (adj.)
flak
flash flood
flavour
flextime (generic)
Flextime (attendance system)
flow chart
flowsheet
focused, focuses, focusing
follow through (verb)
follow-through (noun)
follow up (verb)
follow-up (noun and adj.)
foodgrain
food-insecure
foodstuff
footnote
force majeure
forcible
foregoing (preceding)
forest lands
forever
foreword (to a book)
forgo (go without)
formulas (but “formulae” in mathematics)
forums
forward (verb, adj. and adv.)
freedom fighter
freelance, freelancer
free trade (noun and adj.)
*fresh water (noun)
freshwater (adj.)
front line (noun)
front-line (adj.)
fuelled, fuelling
fuelwood
fulfil, fulfilled, fulfilling, fulfilment
full-time
fundraiser
*fundraising

G

gauge
gData
gDoc
gender-diverse
gender-neutral
gender-specific
geospatial
girl child
globalization
globalize
gMeets
good-neighbourly (adj.)
goodwill
gonorrhoea
gram
grant-in-aid (plural: grants-in-aid)
grassland(s)
grass roots (noun)
grass-roots (adj.)
grey
grounds pass
groundwater
groundwork
gText
guerrilla
guidelines
gunfire
gynaecology

H

haemoglobin
haemorrhage
hajj (note: “hajj pilgrimage” is redundant)
halfway
hand grenade
handheld
Haram al-Sharif
harbour
hard-walled (adj.)
hardwired
hashtag
hawala
headwater
health care (noun)
health-care (adj.)
help desk
helpline
heretofore
herpesvirus
high-mortality-risk (adj.)
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)
HIV-positive
Hizbullah
home care (noun)
home-care (adj.)
home-made
homeowner
homeownership
home page
homeschool
homogeneous
honorary
honorary
hostage-taking
hot-desking
hotelling
hotspot
human resources (not hyphenated)
Humvee
hydroelectric
hydro-interaction
hydropower
hydrosystem
hygiene
hyper: compound forms are closed

I

Ibero-American
ibid. (see also Footnotes and other references)
ill: compound adjectives are hyphenated
  only when preceding a noun (e.g. an ill-designed project; the project is ill designed)
ill-treatment
imperilled
inasmuch as
income generation (noun)
income-generation (adj.)
in-depth (adj.)
indexes (lists in a book), indices (statistical)
indispensable
information and communications technology
information-sharing
infrared
in-house
initialled, initialling
in-kind (adj.)
in-migration
inpatient
inquire, inquiry (referring to a formal investigation) (cf. enquire)
in-session (adj.)
in situ
insofar
insourcing
install, installation, instalment
instil
institution-building
interactive
inter-agency
inter alia
inter-American
inter-anual
interbank
inter-birth
intercommunal
intercountry
intercultural
interdenominational
interdepartmental
interdependence
interdisciplinary
interdivisional
inter-ethnic
interfaith
interfamily
intergenerational
intergovernmental
*intergroup
inter-industry
inter-institutional
interlink, interlinkage
*interministerial
inter-mission (between missions)
intermission (between acts)
Internet
inter-office
inter-organizational
interparliamentary
interprovincial
interracial
interregional
interrelate
interreligious
intersectoral
intersession (noun), intersessional
interspace
inter-State (between countries)
interstate (between states)
inter-unit
intifada
in toto
intra: compound forms are closed except:
  intra-agency
  intra-industry
  intra-mission
  intra-State (within a country)
intra-urban
in vitro
inward (adj.)
inwards (adv.)
ipso facto
iSeek
IV drug user

landlocked
landmine
landowner
land use (noun)
land-use (adj.)
laserdisc
lawmaker
law-making
lay off (verb)
layoff (noun)
lead time
lead-up (noun)
learned (not “learnt”)
least developed countries
**lèse-majesté
letter of assist
leukaemia
levelled, levelling
liaison
liberalization
liberalize
licence (noun)
license (verb)
Lieutenant General
life cycle
lifelong
lifespan
lifestyle
life table (noun)
life-table (adj.)
lifetime
litre
live birth
live-born
living space
local area network
log in, log out (verb)
login, logout (noun)
log on, log off (verb)
logon, logoff (noun)
long-standing (adj.)
long-term (adj.)
loophole
Lotus Notes

lower-case (adj.)
low-level (adj.)

M

machine gun
machine-readable
macro: compound forms are closed except:
macro level (noun), macro-level (adj.)
(note: “macro” in this case is a stand-alone word, not a prefix)
macro-unit
mainframe
mainland
Major General
mandate holder
man-hour (preferred: person-hour)
man-made (preferred: human-caused, human-made)
manoeuvre
man-portable air defence system (not MANPADS)
marketplace
market town
mark up (verb)
markup (noun)
marriage timing (noun)
marriage-timing (adj.)
marshal
marshalled, marshalling
master plan
materiel
matrices
meagre
meantime
meanwhile
medium-sized (adj.)
medium-variant (adj.)
meeting place
*megacity
megajoule (MJ)
megavolt (MV)
megavolt-ampere (MVA)
member-days

memorandums
Mesoamerica
**Messrs. (in English)
meter (instrument)
metre (unit of length)
micro: compound forms are closed except:
micro-business
micro-entrepreneur
micro-environment
micro-event
micro level (noun), micro-level (adj.)
(note: “micro” in this case is a stand-alone word, not a prefix)
mid-1990s
mid-air
midday
middleman
midlife (noun and adj.)
mid-ocean, mid-oceanic
midpoint
mid-range
mid-season
mid-size
midsummer
midterm
midway
midweek
midwife
midwinter
midyear
mileage
milieux
millenniums
mindset
mine clearance (noun)
mine-clearance (adj.)
minefield
minimize
misspelled (not “misspelt”)
misstep
*Mmes. (in English)
modelled, modelling
modus operandi
money-laundering (noun and adj.)
moneylender, moneylending
money market (noun and adj.)
moneys
moratoriums
mores
mould
movable
**Mr.
**Mrs.
**Ms.
Muhammad (the Prophet)
mujahid (plural: ***mujahidin)
multi-access
multi-bilateral
multibillion
multi-cause
multicellular
multi-centred
multichannel
multi-client
multicoloured
multi-country
multicultural
multidimensional
multidisciplinary
multi-donor
multi-ethnic
**multi-faith
multifocal
multifunctional
multigenerational
multigrade
multigrain
multigravida
multi-hazard
multi-jurisdictional
multilateral
multilayer
multilevel
multilingual
multimedia
multimillion
multinational
multipara
multipartite
multi-partner
multiparty
multiphase
multiplatform
multiple-choice (adj.)
multipolar
multiprocessor
*multipurpose
multiracial
multisectoral
multi-skilled
multi-stakeholder
*multistorey
multitalented
multitask, multitasker, multitasking
multitrack
multi-user
multi-utility
multivendor
multi-year
Muslim
mutatis mutandis

N

nation State
nationwide
neighbour
neonatal
nevertheless
newborn
newsfeed
newsflash
newsgroup
news stand
newswire
newsworthy
niqab
no-fly zone
no-man’s-land
non-: compound forms are hyphenated
except:
nonconformist
nondescript
nonfeasance

nonetheless
non sequitur
no one
north(ern), north-east(ern), north-west(ern)
(a geographical direction or an area within a country)
North(ern) (a continent or major region, e.g. North America, North Africa, Northern Europe)
northward
note verbale (plural: notes verbales)
novies or noviens
nursing home (noun)

O

octies or octiens
odour
oedema
oesophagus
offence
offensive
off-gas
offhand
off-hours (noun)
office holder
off-label (adj.)
off-limits (adj.)
offline
offload
off-message (adj.)
off-peak
off-ramp (noun)
off-road
off season (noun)
off-season (adj. and adv.)
offset
offshore
off-site (adj.)
offspring (singular and plural)
oilfield
oil well
old age (noun)
old-age (adj.)
old-growth (adj.)
omega-3 fatty acid
on-board (adj.) (on a ship or aircraft)
onboarding (in human resources)
ongoing
online
on-message (adj.)
on-screen
onshore
on-site (adj.)
onward (adj. and adv.)
op-ed (noun and adj.)
ordinance (law)
ordnance (munitions)
organization
organization chart (not “organigram(me)” or “organizational chart”)
organize
outmigration
out-of-court (adj)
out-of-date (adj.)
outpatient
outsourcer
out-take (noun)
over: compound forms are closed except:
over-elaborate
over-exercise
over-optimistic
over-refine
*overabundant
**overrepresent

P

paediatric
paedophile
panellist
paper-smart (adj.)
paralyse
paramedical
paramilitary
part-time
passer-by (plural: passers-by)
payback (noun)
payday
payroll
peacebuilder, peacebuilding
peacekeeper, peacekeeping
peacemaker, peacemaking
peacetime
per annum
per capita
per cent
per diem
perinatal
peri-urban
per se
person-day, person-hour
phyto-: combinations are closed
place name
plebiscite
plough
policyholder
policymaker, policymaking
policy-setting
post-adolescent
post-cold-war
postdoctoral
post-feminist
postglacial
postgraduate
post-industrial
post-marital
postmillennial
postmodern
post-mortem
*postnatal
post-neonatal
postnuptial
post-operative
post-partum
post-session
post-war
power plant
power-sharing
practice (noun)
practise (verb)
pre-adolescent
pre-book

**précis
précis-writer, précis-writing
preconceive
precondition
pre-construction
*predate
predeployment
pre-eclampsia
pre-embryo
pre-eminent
pre-empt
pre-establish
pre-exist
pre-ignition
pre-industrial
pre-initiation countries
pre-inspection
pre-investment
premarital
pre-modern
prenatal
pre-owned
pre-package
pre-plan
pre-position
pre-press
pre-production
pre-qualify
pre-record
pre-register
pre-release
preschool
pre-screen
pre-sell
pre-session
President-elect
pretence
*pretrial (but Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court)
pre-war
prima facie
principal (first in rank) (noun and adj.)
principle (fundamental truth) (noun)
printout
private sector (not hyphenated)
privatization privatize
procès-verbal (plural: procès-verbaux) pro-choice procyclical
program (computing only) (noun and verb) programme (noun and verb) pronatalism, pronatalist proofread, proofreader pro rata prorate pro tempore
psycho: compound forms are closed public sector (not hyphenated)

Q
**qadi quater quinquies or quinquiens ***Qur'an **Qur'anic

R
radioactive radioisotope rain-fed rainforest
raison d'être range area rangeland(s) rapprochement rateable ratepayer
re-: combinations are closed except: re-advertise re-edit re-educate re-elect re-emerge re-emphasize re-employ re-enact re-engineer re-enrol re-enter re-equip re-erect re-establish re-evaluate re-examine re-export read-only memory readout (noun) record-breaking (adj.) referendums reflection refoulement regime region-wide *reroute results-based (adj.) results-oriented (adj.) résumé retro: combinations are closed reversible right to life (noun) right-to-life (adj.) rigorous rigour risk reduction (noun and adj.) riverbed river water roadbed roadblock road map roadwork rollback (noun) roll call (noun) roll-call (adj.) roll out (verb) roll-out (noun) roll over (verb) rollover (noun) round table (noun) round-table (adj.) routing
RU486
rule of law (not hyphenated)
rumour
run-off (noun and adj.)
rural-urban (noun)
rural/urban (comparison)

S
safe-period method
salary earner
saleable
salt water (noun)
saltwater (adj.)
satphone
savings bank
sceptic, sceptical, scepticism
school-age (adj.)
schoolbook
schoolchild
schoolday
schoolroom
schoolteacher
schoolwork
seabed
sea floor
sea level (not hyphenated)
seaport
seawater
** Secretary-General (plural: Secretaries-General)
sectoral
self-: compound forms are hyphenated
sell off (verb)
sell-off (noun)
semi-annual (twice a year)
semi-automatic
semi-autonomous
semicircle
semicolon
semiconductor
semi-conscious
semi-cylinder

semi-darkness
semi-detached
semi-final
semi-finished
semi-independent
semi-invalid
semi-literate
semi-monthly (twice a month) (see also
“Ambiguous terms” under Numbers, dates and time)

semi-official
semi-permanent
semi-precious
semi-professional
semi-retired
semi-rigid
semi-skilled
semi-solid
semi-trailer
semi-weekly (twice a week) (see also
“Ambiguous terms” under Numbers, dates and time)

septicaemia
septies or septiens
seroprevalence
serostatus
set back (verb)
setback (noun)
set up (verb)
set-up (noun)
sewage (waste matter)
sewerage (system of drains)
sexies or sexiens
sex-selective (adj.)
shake up (verb)
shake-up (noun)
shanty town
sharia
sheikh
shellfire
Shia
Shiite
shopkeeper
shortcoming
shortfall
shortlist
short-lived
side effect
sine qua non
sizeable
size class
skilful
skill set
slow down (verb)
slowdown (noun)
*slum dweller
smartphone
sociobiology
sociocultural
sociodemographic
***socioeconomic
*sociomedical
sociopolitical
soft-walled (adj.)
solicitor general (plural: solicitors general)
sombre
south(ern), south-east(ern), south-west(ern)
(a geographical direction or an area within a country)
South(ern), South-East(ern), South-West(ern) (a continent or major region, e.g. South America, Southern Africa, Southern Europe, South-East Asia; exception: Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
South-South cooperation
southward
spatial-profile model
specialize
speed-dial (verb)
speed dial (noun)
spelled (not “spelt”)
spillover (noun and adj.)
stabilization
stabilize
staff-day, staff-hour
staff member
stakeholder
stalemate
standby (noun and adj.)
stand-alone (adj.)
stand in (verb)
stand-in (noun)
State-building
stationary (not moving)
stationery (paper)
status-conscious
status-of-forces agreement
status quo
steady-state (adj.)
step: compound forms are closed except:
   step-parent
stillbirth
stillborn (adj.)
stockbreeder
stockbroker
stockholder
stock market
stockpile
stocktaking
storefront
storekeeper
storey (of a building)
straightforward
strikebreaker
strike-slip fault
strip-search
*sub: compound forms are closed except:
   sub-account
   sub-amendment
   sub-aquatic
   sub-area
   sub-assembly
   sub-body
   sub-bottom
   sub-branch
   sub-bureau
   sub-calibre
   sub-centre
   sub-clan
   sub-discipline
   sub-element
   sub-entry
   sub-folder
   sub-interval
sub-issue
sub-item
sub-lessee
sub-lessee
**sub-let
sub-munitions
sub-office
sub-prefect
sub-prefecture
sub-prime
sub-province
sub-Saharan
sub-theme
sub-working group
sub-zero
subject matter (noun)
subprogram (computing only)
subprogramme
*subunit
succour
**sulfur (and related words)
summarize
Sunna (traditional Muslim law)
Sunni (adj. and noun, singular and plural)
Sunnite
**super-Power
supersede
superstructure
supervisor
surface water (noun)
surface-water (adj.)
suspense account
symposiums
system-wide

takeover (noun)
takfirism, takfirist
Taliban
targeted, targeting
tariff
task force
taxpayer
tele-health
telemedicine
ter
test-ban (adj.)
text-processing
text processor
therefor (for that purpose)
therefore (consequently)
think tank
time-consuming
time deposit
time frame
time-horizon
timekeeper
time lag
time limit
timeline
time period
time-release (adj.)
timescale
time series
time sheet
timespan
timetables
title page
ton (i.e. metric ton)
topsoil
totalled, totalling
towards
town hall meeting
toxaemia
tradable
trade-off (noun)
traffic, trafficked, trafficking
*training ground
tranquillity
tranquillizer
transalpine
transatlantic
transboundary
transcontinental
trans-fat, trans-fatty acid
transferable, transference
transferred, transferring
transgender
transglobal
transmigrant
trans-Pacific
transracial
transsexual
trans-ship, trans-shipment
travelled, travelling
tripwire
troop contributor
troop-contributing
T-shirt
tsunamis
tunnelled, tunnelling
turn around (verb)
turnaround (noun)
turning point
tumkey (adj.)
turn off (verb)
turn-off (noun)
turn out (verb)
turnout (noun)
turn over (verb)
turnover (noun)
two-faced
twofold	ypeset, typesetting, typesetter
tyre

upgrade
upper-case (adj.)
uproot
up-to-date (adj.)
upward (adj. and adv.)
*urban dweller
urban-rural (demographic movement)
urban/rural (comparison)
usability
usable
use-by date
use-effectiveness
user-friendly
username
utilize
U-turn
Uzi

V

vacuum aspiration method
vacuum-pack (verb)
vacuum-packed (adj.)
value added (noun and adj.)
value system
vapour
vari: compound forms are closed
V-chip
venepuncture
versus
vice (tool)
Vice-Chair
Vice-President
Vice-President-elect
vice versa
video camera
videoconference
videodisc
video game
videographics
videography
video link
video map
video on demand

**ulama
ultra: compound forms are closed except:
ultra-high frequency (noun)
ultra-high-frequency (adj.)
**under: compound forms are closed except when modifying a hyphenated compound
undersecretary
**Under-Secretary-General (plural: Under-Secretaries-General)
under way
uni: compound forms are closed
unmistakable
update

videophone
video pirate
video recorder
video recording
viewfinder
viewpoint
vigorous
vigour
vis-à-vis
vitamin A
voicemail
voice-over (noun and adj.)
voiceprint

W

wage earner
wage-earning
wagon
Wahhabi
walkie-talkie
walk in (verb)
walk-in (adj.)
walkout (noun)
walk-through (noun)
wallboard
wallchart
Walloon
waqf
war chest
war crime
war criminal
war cry
war game
warhead
warlike
warlord
warmonger
warpath
warplane
warship
wartime
war-torn (adj.)
washout (noun)

washtub
wastewater
Washington, D.C.
watch list (noun and adj.)
watchtower
waterbird
water birth
waterboard, waterboarding
waterborne
water cannon
watercourse
watercraft
waterfowl
waterfront
waterhole
water level
waterline
waterlogged
water main
watermark
watermill
water power
waterproof
water-repellant (adj.)
water-resistant (adj.)
watershed
water supply
water table
watertight
water torture
water tower
waterway
waterworks
watt-hour
wattmeter
wavelength
weather-beaten
weatherproof
webcam
webcast
web hosting
webinar
webservice
weblink
weblog
webmail webmaster web page web ring website webspace weekday weekend

well: compound adjectives are hyphenated only when preceding a noun (e.g. a well-designed project; the project is well designed)

well-being well-to-do well water (noun) well-wisher

west(ern) (a geographical direction or an area within a country) West(ern) (a major region, e.g. West Africa, Western Europe)

west-north-west, west-south-west westward wetland(s) wet lease wheelchair

while (not “whilst”) whistle-blower, whistle-blowing whiteboard white list (noun) white-list (verb)

whitewash wholegrain wholehearted wholewheat wide area network wideband widebody

Wi-Fi wild card wildcat wildfire wildfowl wilful windblown windborne

windbreak windburn wind chill windfall windowpane windowsill windproof windscreen

windshield windstorm windswept winegrower winemaker wingspan wingspread win-win (adj.)

wiretap, wiretapping, wiretapper witchcraft witch-hunt withhold

woman-month, woman-year woodblock woodchip woodpile woodshed

woodsmoke woodwork woodyard word-processing word processor

work around (verb) workaround (noun) workday workflow workforce

work-hour workload work out (verb) workout (noun)

work permit workplace workplan workroom worksheet

workshop
worksite
workspace
workstation
workweek
worldwide
would-be (adj.)
write down (verb)
write-down (noun)
write in (verb)
write-in (noun)
write off (verb)
write-off (noun)
write-protect, write-protected
write up (verb)
write-up (noun)
wrongdoing

X

X chromosome
xeno: compound forms are closed
X factor
X-ray

Y

yarmulke
Y chromosome
year-on-year (adj.)
year-round (adj.)
YouTube

Z

zero gravity
zeros
zero-sum (adj.)
zero-tolerance (adj.)
zigzag
zoogeography
zookeeper
zoonosis
zooplankton
Z particle