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://premium.oxforddictionaries.com/english/](https://premium.oxforddictionaries.com/english/)) (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.
above-mentioned
abridgement
acknowledgement
addenda
ad hoc
ad infinitum
ad litem
adviser
aeroplane
aesthetic
aforementioned
Afrodescendant (noun) (preferred: person of African descent)
Afrodescendent (adj.) (preferred: of African descent)
after: compound forms are closed except:
after-effect
after-image
age-appropriate (adj.)
ageing
ageism
age-selective (adj.)
age-specific (adj.)
agribusiness
agrifood
agricience
agritourism
agroecological
agroecosystem
agroforestry
agro-industry
agropastoral
agroterrorism
aides-memoires
AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)
airbag
air conditioner, air conditioning (noun)
air-conditioned, air-conditioning (adj.)
aircraft (singular and plural)
aircrew
airdrop

A

airfare
airfield
airfreight
airlift
air raid
airspace
air strike
air traffic control
AK-47
allot, allotted, allotment
Al-Qaida
aluminium
among (not “amongst”)
aemia
anaesthetic
analogue (but analog in computer technology)
analyse
antenatal
antennae (insects)
antennas (aerials)
anti-abortion
anti-aircraft
antifertility
anti-inflammatory
antimalarial
antimicrobial
anti-money-laundering (adj.; not to be used as a noun)
antinatalism, antinatalist
anti-poverty
apartheid
a posteriori
appal, appalled, appalling
appendices
a priori
armoury
artefact
Assistant Secretary-General (plural: Assistant Secretaries-General)
*asylum seeker
asylum-seeking (adj.)
attaché
attorney general
audiobook
*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
benefit-sharing
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

C

calibre
cancelled, cancelling
canvas (cloth)
canvass (to solicit)
capacity-building (noun and adj.)
capital (city, money)
Capitol (building)
caregiver
care provider
caretaker
CarLog
carry over (verb)
carry-over (noun)
carte blanche
case-by-case (adj.)
case-fatality rate
case law
caseload
case study
catalogue
catalyse
cathode ray tube
CD-ROM
ceasefire (noun and adj.)
cellmate
cell phone
cellular phone
centre, centred, centring
centrepiece
chador
Chair-designate
changeover (noun)
channelled, channelling
charge-back
chargé d’affaires (singular invariable; plural: chargés d’affaires)
chat room
checklist
checkpoint
check-up (noun)
chef de cabinet (plural: chefs de cabinet)
cheque (bank)
chequebook
childbearing
childbirth
childcare
child-rearing
child-sensitive (adj.)
child spacing
chlorofluorocarbons
classroom
clearing house
closed-end (adj.)
co-chair
coequal
coeexist
cofactor
cogeneration
cohort-component projections
cold war
co-locate
colloquiums
colour
combatant
combated, combating
Commissioner-General
common law (noun)
common-law (adj.)
communiqué
compel, compelled
compendiums
confidence-building (noun and adj.)
connection
consensus
**consortiums
contingent-owned equipment
contraceptive-calendar method
cookstove
cooperate, cooperation
coordinate, coordination
co-payment
copy-edit
copy editor
cornerstone
corrigenda
cost accounting
cost-effective
cost-efficient
cost-of-living index
cost recovery (noun)
cost-recovery (adj.)
councillor
counsel (verb and noun, singular and plural)
counselling, counsellor
counteract
*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

D

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)
dejure
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 traffick ing
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-married (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
exjudicial
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
flexitime (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
geo: compound forms are closed
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
honorariums
honorary
honour
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
interdenominaional
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)
deriving.

### intra-urban

### in vitro

### inward (adj.)

### inwards (adv.)

### ipso facto

### iSeek

### IV drug user

#### J

- jail
- jihad, jihadi
- Judaize
- *judgment (see also *Capitalization in English*)
- *judgmental
- jump-start

#### K

- keffiyeh
- kick-start
- kilogram (kg)
- kilometre (km)
- kilovolt-ampere (kVA)
- kilowatt (kW)
- kilowatt-hour (kWh)
- *kin group
- know-how
- knowledge-sharing

#### L

- labelled, labelling
- laborious
- labour
- labour-force (adj.)
- labour-market (adj.)
- laissez-faire
- laissez-passer (singular and plural)
- land-grabbing
- landholder
- landline
- 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:
nonconforming, 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

cocties 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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>payday</td>
<td>pre-book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>payroll</td>
<td><strong>précis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peacebuilder, peacebuilding</td>
<td>précis-writer, précis-writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peacekeeper, peacekeeping</td>
<td>preconceive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peacemaker, peacemaking</td>
<td>precondition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peacetime</td>
<td>pre-construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per annum</td>
<td>*predate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per capita</td>
<td>predeployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per cent</td>
<td>pre-eclampsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per diem</td>
<td>pre-embryo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perinatal</td>
<td>pre-eminent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peri-urban</td>
<td>pre-empt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per se</td>
<td>pre-establish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person-day, person-hour</td>
<td>pre-exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phyto-: combinations are closed</td>
<td>pre-ignition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>place name</td>
<td>pre-industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plebiscite</td>
<td>pre-initiation countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plough</td>
<td>pre-inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box</td>
<td>pre-investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>policyholder</td>
<td>premarital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>policymaker, policymaking</td>
<td>pre-modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>policy-setting</td>
<td>prenatal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-adolescent</td>
<td>pre-owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-cold-war</td>
<td>pre-package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>postdoctoral</td>
<td>pre-plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-feminist</td>
<td>pre-position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>postglacial</td>
<td>pre-press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>postgraduate</td>
<td>pre-production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-industrial</td>
<td>pre-qualify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-marital</td>
<td>pre-record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>postmillennial</td>
<td>pre-register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>postmodern</td>
<td>pre-release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-mortem</td>
<td>preschool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*postnatal</td>
<td>pre-screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-neonatal</td>
<td>pre-sell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>postnuptial</td>
<td>pre-session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-operative</td>
<td>President-elect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-partum</td>
<td>pretence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-session</td>
<td>*pretrial (but Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-war</td>
<td>pre-war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power plant</td>
<td>prima facie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power-sharing</td>
<td>principal (first in rank) (noun and adj.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice (noun)</td>
<td>principle (fundamental truth) (noun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practise (verb)</td>
<td>printout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pre-adolescent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
rainwater
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 (demographic movement)
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    standoff (noun and adj.)
shortlist    stand-alone (adj.)
short-lived  stand in (verb)
side effect  stand-in (noun)
sine qua non  State-building
sizeable     stationary (not moving)
size class    stationery (paper)
skilful       status-conscious
skill set     status-of-forces agreement
slow down (verb)  status quo
slowdown (noun)  steady-state (adj.)
*slum dweller  step: compound forms are closed except:
smartphone     step-parent
sociobiology   stillbirth
sociocultural  stillborn (adj.)
sociodemographic  stockbreeder
sociodemographic  stockbroker
***socioeconomic  stockholder
*sociomedical  stock market
sociopolitical  stockpile
soft-walled (adj.)  stocktaking
solicitor general (plural: solicitors general)  storefront
sombre        storekeeper
south(ern), south-east(ern), south-west(ern)  storey (of a building)
(a geographical direction or an area  straightforward
within a country)
South(ern), South-East(ern), South-West(ern)  strikebreaker
(a continent or major region,  strike-slip fault
e.g. South America, Southern Africa,  strip-search
Southern Europe, South-East Asia;
exception: Association of Southeast
Asian Nations)
South-South cooperation  *sub: compound forms are closed except:
southward     sub-account
spatial-profile model  sub-amendment
specialize    sub-aquatic
speed-dial (verb)  sub-area
speed dial (noun)  sub-assembly
spelled (not “spelt”)  sub-block
spillover (noun and adj.)  sub-body
stabilization  sub-bottom
stabilize      sub-branch
staff-day, staff-hour  sub-bureau
staff member    sub-calibre
stakeholder    sub-centre
staff member    sub-clan
standby (noun and adj.)  sub-discipline
stand-alone (adj.)  sub-element
stand-in (noun)    sub-entry
sub-folder
sub-interval
sub-issue
sub-item
sub-lessee
sub-lessor
**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)
Suni (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, takfirit
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
timetable
title page
ton (i.e. metric ton)
topsoil
totalled, totalling
towards
town hall meeting
toxaemia
tradable
trade-off (noun)
traffics, 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
turnkey (adj.)
turn off (verb)
turn-off (noun)
turn out (verb)
turnout (noun)
turn over (verb)
turnover (noun)
uproot
twofold
twofold
typeset, typesetting, typesetter

U

**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
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
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
webisode
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
workforce
workflow
work-hour
workload
workload-sharing
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

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

X

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