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/) (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.
A

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
agriecology
agriecosystem
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

airfare
airfield
airfreight
airlift
air raid
airspace
air strike
air traffic control
AK-47
allot, allotted, allotment
Al-Qaida
aluminium
among (not “amongst”)
anaemia
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)
bias(biased)
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)
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.)
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
centre-piece
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
co-ordinate, co-ordination
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

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)
est-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
dryland(s) (type of ecosystem)
*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
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
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 (preceeding)
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)
halway
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)
dispensable
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-annual
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)
termission (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

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
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

octies or octiens
odour
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)
on-going
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
outsource
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
P.O. Box
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
*prettrial (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
***Qurʾan
**Qurʾanic

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
record-breaking (adj.)
referendums
reflection
refolement
regime
region-wide
reroute
results-based (adj.)
results-oriented (adj.)
résumé
re: 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
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
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-block
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 (computing only)
*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

task force
taxpayer
tele-health
telemedicine
ter
test-ban (adj.)
text-processing
text processor
thereafter (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)
two-faced
twofold
typeset, typesetting, typesetter
tyre

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
viodisc
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
warpth
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  windblown
weblog   windborne
webmail  windbreak
webmaster windburn
web page  wind chill
web ring  windfall
website   windowpane
webspace  windowsill
weekday  windproof
weekend  windscreen
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
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
zoookeeper
zoonosis
zooplankton
Z particle

X

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