



## *United Nations Editorial Manual Online*

### **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	airdrop
abridgement	airfare
acknowledgement	airfield
addenda	airfreight
ad hoc	airlift
ad infinitum	air raid
ad litem	airspace
adviser	air strike
aeroplane	air traffic control
aesthetic	AK-47
aforementioned	allot, allotted, allotment
Afrodescendant (noun) (preferred: person of African descent)	Al-Qaida
Afrodescendent (adj.) (preferred: of African descent)	aluminium
after: compound forms are closed except: after-effect	among (not “amongst”)
after-image	anaemia
age-appropriate (adj.)	anaesthetic
ageing	analogue (but analog in computer technology)
ageism	analyse
age-selective (adj.)	antenatal
age-specific (adj.)	antennae (insects)
agribusiness	antennas (aerials)
agrifood	anti-abortion
agriscience	anti-aircraft
agritourism	antifertility
agroecological	anti-inflammatory
agroecosystem	antimalarial
agroforestry	antimicrobial
agro-industry	anti-money-laundering (adj.; not to be used as a noun)
agropastoral	antinatalism, antinatalist
agroprocessing	anti-poverty
agroterrorism	**antisemitism
aides-memoires	apartheid
AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)	a posteriori
airbag	appal, appalled, appalling
air conditioner, air conditioning (noun)	appendices
air-conditioned, air-conditioning (adj.)	a priori
aircraft (singular and plural)	armoury
aircrew	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  
behave  
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  
 cash flow (noun)  
 cash-flow (adj.)  
 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  
 child spacing  
 chlorofluorocarbons  
 classroom  
 clearing house (n); clearing-house (adj.)  
 closed-end (adj.)  
 co-chair  
 coequal  
 coexist  
 cofactor  
 cogeneration  
 cohort-component projections  
 cold war  
 co-locate  
 colloquiums  
 colour  
 combatant  
 combated, combating  
 Commissioner-General  
 common law (noun)  
 common-law (adj.)  
 communiqué  
 comorbidity  
 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  
crowdwork, crowdworker, crowdworking  
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

Da'esh  
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.)	dry land (land as opposed to sea)
depository (person or entity with which a treaty is deposited)	dryland(s) (type of ecosystem)
depository (warehouse)	**dunum
derestricted	dwelling unit
de-risk	dysfunctional
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.)	

## 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  
emir  
encyclopedia  
endeavour  
endogenization  
end product  
end result  
\*end user (noun)  
end-user (adj.)  
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)  
Flexitime (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-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)  
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

## 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  
life-saving  
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.)  
lump-sum (adj.)  
lump sum (noun)

## 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 (preferred: intermediary)  
 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  
neuro: compound forms are closed  
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  
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  
 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  
 \*penholder  
 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  
predawn  
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  
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-enforce  
re-engage  
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 back (verb)

roll call (noun)

roll-call (adj.)

roll forward (noun and verb)

roll out (verb)

roll-out (noun)

roll over (verb)

rollover (noun)

round table (noun)

round-table (adj.)

routing

RU486

rule-making

rule of law (not hyphenated)

rumour

run-off (noun and adj.)

run-up (noun)

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

\*seafloor

sea level (not hyphenated)

seaport

seawater

\*\* Secretary-General (plural: Secretaries-General)  
 sectoral  
 security sector (not hyphenated)  
 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  
 small-satellite (adj.)  
 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)	sub-account
South-South cooperation	sub-amendment
southward	sub-aquatic
spatial-profile model	sub-area
specialize	sub-assembly
speed-dial (verb)	sub-block
speed dial (noun)	sub-body
spelled (not “spelt”)	sub-bottom
spillover (noun and adj.)	sub-branch
stabilization	sub-bureau
stabilize	sub-calibre
staff-day, staff-hour	sub-centre
staff member	sub-clan
stakeholder	sub-discipline
stalemate	sub-element
standby (noun and adj.)	sub-entry
stand-alone (adj.)	sub-folder
stand in (verb)	sub-interval
stand-in (noun)	sub-issue
State-building	sub-item
stationary (not moving)	sub-lessee
stationery (paper)	sub-lessor
status-conscious	**sub-let
status-of-forces agreement	sub-munitions
status quo	sub-office
steady-state (adj.)	sub-prefect
step: compound forms are closed except:	sub-prefecture
step-parent	sub-prime
stillbirth	sub-province
stillborn (adj.)	sub-Saharan
stockbreeder	sub-seafloor
stockbroker	sub-theme
stockholder	sub-working group
stock market	sub-zero
stockpile	subject matter (not hyphenated)
stocktaking	subprogram (computing only)
storefront	subprogramme
storekeeper	*subunit
storey (of a building)	succour
straightforward	**sulfur (and related words)
strikebreaker	summarize
strike-slip fault	Sunna (traditional Muslim law)
strip-search	Sunni (adj. and noun, singular and plural)
*sub: compound forms are closed except:	Sunnite
	**super-Power

supersede  
superstructure  
supervisor  
surface water (noun)  
surface-water (adj.)  
suspense account  
syllabuses  
symposiums  
system-wide

## T

takeover (noun)  
takfirism, takfirist  
Taliban  
targeted, targeting  
tariff  
task force  
taxpayer  
\*telehealth  
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)  
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  
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)	watershed
wallboard	water supply
wallchart	water table
Walloon	watertight
waqf	water torture
war chest	water tower
war crime	waterway
war criminal	waterworks
war cry	watt-hour
war game	wattmeter
warhead	wavelength
warlike	weather-beaten
warlord	weatherproof
warmonger	webcam
warpath	webcast
warplane	web hosting
warship	webinar
wartime	webisode
war-torn (adj.)	weblink
washout (noun)	weblog
washtub	webmail
wastewater	webmaster
Washington, D.C.	web page
watch list (noun and adj.)	web ring
watchtower	website
waterbird	webspace
water birth	weekday
waterboard, waterboarding	weekend
waterborne	well: compound adjectives are hyphenated only when preceding a noun (e.g. a well- designed project; the project is well designed)
water cannon	well-being
watercourse	well-to-do
watercraft	well water (noun)
waterfowl	well-wisher
waterfront	west(ern) (a geographical direction or an area within a country)
waterhole	West(ern) (a major region, e.g. West Africa, Western Europe)
water level	west-north-west, west-south-west
waterline	westward
waterlogged	wetland(s)
water main	wet lease
watermark	wheelchair
watermill	
water power	
waterproof	
water-repellant (adj.)	
water-resistant (adj.)	

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  
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

## X

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

## Y

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

## Z

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