



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 after-image	among (not “amongst”)
age-appropriate (adj.)	anaemia
ageing	anaesthetic
ageism	analogue (but analog in computer technology)
age-selective (adj.)	analyse
age-specific (adj.)	antenatal
agribusiness	antennae (insects)
agrifood	antennas (aerials)
agriscience	anti-abortion
agritourism	anti-aircraft
agroecological	antifertility
agroecosystem	anti-inflammatory
agroforestry	antimalarial
agro-industry	antimicrobial
agropastoral	anti-money-laundering (adj.; not to be used as a noun)
agroprocessing	antinatalism, antinatalist
agroterrorism	anti-poverty
aides-memoires	**antisemitism
AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)	apartheid
airbag	a posteriori
air conditioner, air conditioning (noun)	appal, appalled, appalling
air-conditioned, air-conditioning (adj.)	appendices
aircraft (singular and plural)	a priori
aircrew	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
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

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)	**dunum
depository (warehouse)	dwelling unit
derestricted	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.)	
dry land (land as opposed to sea)	
dryland(s) (type of ecosystem)	

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
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
 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
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
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 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-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
 sea floor
 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
 smartphone
 sociobiology
 sociocultural
 sociodemographic
 ***socioeconomic
 *sociomedical
 sociopolitical
 soft-walled (adj.)
 solicitor general (plural: solicitors general)
 sombre
 south(ern), south-east(ern), south- west(ern)
 (a geographical direction or an area
 within a country)
 South(ern), South-East(ern), South-
 West(ern) (a continent or major region,
 e.g. South America, Southern Africa,
 Southern Europe, South-East Asia;
 exception: Association of Southeast
 Asian Nations)
 South-South cooperation
 southward
 spatial-profile model
 specialize
 speed-dial (verb)
 speed dial (noun)

spelled (not “spelt”)
 spillover (noun and adj.)
 stabilization
 stabilize
 staff-day, staff-hour
 staff member
 stakeholder
 stalemate
 standby (noun and adj.)
 stand-alone (adj.)
 stand in (verb)
 stand-in (noun)
 State-building
 stationary (not moving)
 stationery (paper)
 status-conscious
 status-of-forces agreement
 status quo
 steady-state (adj.)
 step: compound forms are closed except:
 step-parent
 stillbirth
 stillborn (adj.)
 stockbreeder
 stockbroker
 stockholder
 stock market
 stockpile
 stocktaking
 storefront
 storekeeper
 storey (of a building)
 straightforward
 strikebreaker
 strike-slip fault
 strip-search
 *sub: compound forms are closed except:
 sub-account
 sub-amendment
 sub-aquatic
 sub-area
 sub-assembly
 sub-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-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)
 Sunni (adj. and noun, singular and plural)
 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
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)
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)
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
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 (adj.)
year-round (adj.)
YouTube

Z

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