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.
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
agritourism
agroecological
agroecosystem
agroforestry
agro-industry
agropastoral
agroprocessing
agroterrorism
aides-mémoires
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
**antisemitism
apartheid
a posteriori
appal, appalled, appalling
appendices
a priori
armoury
artefact
Assistant Secretary-General (plural: Assistant Secretaries-General)
*asylum seeker
asylum-seeking (adj.)
attehé
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
coeexist
cofactor
cogeneration
cohort-component projections
cold war
co-locate
colloquiums
colour
combatant
combated, combating
Commissioner-General
common law (noun)
common-law (adj.)
communiqué
comorbidty
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
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

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.)
depositary (person or entity with which a treaty is deposited)
depository (warehouse)
derestricted
desiccated
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-: 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. inquiere)
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 (adj.)
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

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.)
ipseo 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
meantwhile
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

care
nation State
nationwide
neighbour/neonatal
nevertheless
newborn/new
newsfeed/newsflash/newsgroup/news stand/newswire/newsworthy/niqab
no-fly zone/no-man’s-land/non-compliant
except:
nonconforming, nonconformist
nonconforming, nonconformist
nondescript
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)
notwithstanding
note verbale (plural: notes verbales)
novies or noviens
nursing home (noun)

O

care
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 quinqueniens
***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         roll out (verb)
re-elect           roll-out (noun)
re-emerge          roll over (verb)
re-emphasize       rollover (noun)
re-employ          round table (noun)
re-enact           round-table (adj.)
re-enforce         routing
re-engage          RU486
re-engineer        rule-making
re-enrol           rule of law (not hyphenated)
re-enter           rumour
re-equip           run-off (noun and adj.)
re-erect           run-up (noun)
re-establish       rural-urban (demographic movement)
re-evaluate        rural/urban (comparison)
re-examine

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.)
riv erbed
river water
roadbed
roadblock
road map
roadwork
rollback (noun)
roll call (noun)
roll-call (adj.)

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  
sizable  
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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>spelled (not “spelt”)</td>
<td>sub-branch</td>
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<tr>
<td>spillover (noun and adj.)</td>
<td>sub-bureau</td>
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<td>stabilization</td>
<td>sub-calibre</td>
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<tr>
<td>stabilize</td>
<td>sub-centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>staff-day, staff-hour</td>
<td>sub-clan</td>
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<tr>
<td>staff member</td>
<td>sub-discipline</td>
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<tr>
<td>stakeholder</td>
<td>sub-element</td>
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<td>stalemate</td>
<td>sub-entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>standby (noun and adj.)</td>
<td>sub-folder</td>
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<td>stand-alone (adj.)</td>
<td>sub-interval</td>
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<td>stand in (verb)</td>
<td>sub-issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>stand-in (noun)</td>
<td>sub-item</td>
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<td>State-building</td>
<td>sub-lessee</td>
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<td>stationary (not moving)</td>
<td>sub-lessor</td>
</tr>
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<td>stationery (paper)</td>
<td>**sub-let</td>
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<td>status-conscious</td>
<td>sub-munitions</td>
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<td>status-of-forces agreement</td>
<td>sub-office</td>
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<td>status quo</td>
<td>sub-prefect</td>
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<td>steady-state (adj.)</td>
<td>sub-prefecture</td>
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<td>step: compound forms are closed except:</td>
<td>sub-prime</td>
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<td>step-parent</td>
<td>sub-province</td>
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<td>stillbirth</td>
<td>sub-Saharan</td>
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<td>stillborn (adj.)</td>
<td>sub-theme</td>
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<td>stockbreeder</td>
<td>sub-working group</td>
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<td>stockbroker</td>
<td>sub-zero</td>
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<td>stockholder</td>
<td>subject matter (noun)</td>
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<td>stock market</td>
<td>subprogram (computing only)</td>
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<td>stockpile</td>
<td>subprogramme</td>
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<td>stocktaking</td>
<td>*subunit</td>
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<tr>
<td>storefront</td>
<td>succour</td>
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<tr>
<td>storekeeper</td>
<td>**sulfur (and related words)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storey (of a building)</td>
<td>summarize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>straightforward</td>
<td>Sunna (traditional Muslim law)</td>
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<td>strikebreaker</td>
<td>Sunni (adj. and noun, singular and plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strike-slip fault</td>
<td>Sunnite</td>
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<td>strip-search</td>
<td>**super-Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*sub: compound forms are closed except:</td>
<td>supersede</td>
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<tr>
<td>sub-account</td>
<td>superstructure</td>
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<td>sub-amendment</td>
<td>supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>sub-aquatic</td>
<td>surface water (noun)</td>
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<td>sub-area</td>
<td>surface-water (adj.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>sub-assembly</td>
<td>suspense account</td>
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<td>sub-block</td>
<td>syllabuses</td>
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<td>sub-body</td>
<td>symposiums</td>
</tr>
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<td>sub-bottom</td>
<td>system-wide</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
takeover (noun)
takfirism, takfiri
Taliban
targeted, targeting
tariff
task force
taxpayer
tele-health
telemedicine
tel
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)
twofold
typeset, typesetting, typesetter
tyre

**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
wild cat
wild fire
wild fowl
wilful
wind blown
wind born
wind borne
wind break
wind burn
wind chill
wind fall
window pane
window sill
wind proof
wind screen
wind shield
wind storm
wind swept
wine grower
winemaker
wing span
wing spread
win-win (adj.)
wire tap, wire tapping, wire tapper
witch craft
witch hunt
with hold
woman-month, woman-year
wood block
wood chip
wood pile
wood shed
wood smoke
wood work
woodyard
word processing
word processor
work around (verb)
work around (noun)
work day
work flow
work force
work hour
work load
work load-sharing
work out (verb)
work out (noun)
work permit
work place
work plan
work room
work sheet
work shop
work site
work space
work station
work week
world wide
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)
wrong doing

X

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

yarmulke
Y chromosome
year-on-year (adj.)
year-round (adj.)
You Tube

Z

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