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.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abovementioned</td>
<td>abridgement</td>
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<td>Afrodescendant (noun) (preferred: person of African descent)</td>
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<td>after: compound forms are closed except:</td>
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<td>aides-memoires</td>
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<td>air-conditioned, air-conditioning (adj.)</td>
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<td>aircrew</td>
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<td>allot, allotted, allotment</td>
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<td>analogue (but analog in computer technology)</td>
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<td>antimalarial</td>
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<td>anti-money-laundering (adj.; not to be used as a noun)</td>
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<td>antinatalism, antinatalist</td>
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<td>appal, appalled, appalling</td>
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<td>Assistant Secretary-General (plural: Assistant Secretaries-General)</td>
<td>*asylum seeker</td>
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<td>asylum-seeking (adj.)</td>
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<td>*audiovisual</td>
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<td>auditor general</td>
<td>BlackBerry</td>
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<td>awareness-raising (noun and adj.)</td>
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<td>ayatollah</td>
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<td>break-up (noun)</td>
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<td>bride price</td>
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<td>Brigadier General</td>
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<td>broad band, broad banding (verb and noun, in ICSC documents)</td>
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<td>broad-banded, broad-banding (adj., in ICSC documents)</td>
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<td>broadband (telecommunications)</td>
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<td>burned (not “burnt”)</td>
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<td>bystander</td>
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| 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
catalogue
catalyse
cathode ray tube
CD-ROM
ceasefire (noun and adj.)
cellmate
cell phone
cellular phone
centre, centred, centring
centre-piece
chador
Chair-designate
changeover (noun)
channelled, channelling
charge-back
chargé d’affaires (singular invariable; plural: chargés d’affaires)
chat room
checklist
checkpoint
check-up (noun)
chef de cabinet (plural: chefs de cabinet)
cheque (bank)
chequebook
childbearing
childbirth
childcare
child-rearing
child-sensitive
child spacing
chlorofluorocarbons
classroom
clearing house
closed-end (adj.)
co-chair
coequal
coexist
cofactor
cogeneration
cohort-component projections
cold war
co-locate
colloquiums
colour
combatant
combat ed, combating
Commissioner-General
common law (noun)
common-law (adj.)
communiqué
compel, compelled
compendiums
confidence-building (noun and adj.)
connection
consensus
**consortiums
contingent-owned equipment
contraceptive-calendar method
cookstove
cooperate, cooperation
coordinate, coordination
co-payment
copy-edit
copy editor
cornerstone
corrigenda
cost accounting
cost-effective
cost-efficient
cost-of-living index
cost recovery (noun)
cost-recovery (adj.)
councillor
counsel (verb and noun, singular and plural)
counselling, counsellor
counteract
*counterargument
counter-attack
counterbalance
countercharge
counterclaim
counterclockwise
counterculture
countercyclical
counterdemonstration
counter-espionage
counter-example
counter-guarantee
counter-insurgency
counter-intelligence
counter-intuitive
countermeasure
counter-narcotics
counteroffensive
counterpoint
counterproductive
counterproliferation
counterproposal
counter-revolution
**counter-terrorism
countertrade
counter-urbanization
countryside
countrywide
coup d'état (plural: coups d'état)
couple-years
cou-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)
depository (warehouse)
derestricted
desiccate
desktop
détente
diarrhoea
dieback (noun)
digitize
diktat
*Director General (plural: Directors
   General) (but Director-General of the
   United Nations Offices at Geneva,
   Vienna and Nairobi)
disc (but disk in computer technology)
discreet (prudent)
discrete (separate)
dispatch
donor dependence
donor-dependent (adj.)
donor-funded (adj.)
dot-com
dot-org
doubling time
down payment
downstream
downward (adj. and adv.)
draft (text)
draught (air and animal)
draw down (verb)
drawdown (noun)
drift net (noun)
drift-net (adj.)
drinking water
drop out (verb)
dropout (noun and adj.)
drug dealer
drug dealing
drug-taking
drug trafficking
drug user
drug-using (adj.)
dry land (land as opposed to sea)
dryland(s) (type of ecosystem)
**dunum
dwelling unit
dysfunctional
E

e-: compound forms are hyphenated, except:
   *email
and where the second element begins with a capital letter:
eDoc
eLUNa
eMeets
ePAS
eRef
early-initiation (adj.)
early warning system
earmark
east(ern) (a geographical direction or an area within a country)
East(ern) (a major region, e.g. East Africa, Eastern Europe)
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)  
Flextime (attendance system)  
flow chart  
flowsheet  
focused, focuses, focusing  
follow through (verb)  
follow-through (noun)  
follow up (verb)  
follow-up (noun and adj.)  
foodgrain  
food-insecure  
foodstuff  
footnote  
force majeure  
forcible  
foregoing (preceding)  
forest lands  
forever  
foreword (to a book)  
forgo (go without)  
formulas (but “formulae” in mathematics)  
forums  
forward (verb, adj. and adv.)  
freedom fighter  
freelance, freelancer  
free trade (noun and adj.)  
*fresh water (noun)  
freshwater (adj.)  
front line (noun)  
front-line (adj.)  
fuelled, fuelling  
fuelwood  
fulfil, fulfilled, fulfilling, fulfilment  
full-time  
fundraiser  
*fundraising

G

gauge  
gData  
gDoc  
gender-diverse  
gender-neutral  
gender-specific  
geo: compound forms are closed  
girl child  
globalization  
globalize  
gMeets  
good-neighbourly (adj.)  
goodwill  
gonorrhoea  
gram  
grant-in-aid (plural: grants-in-aid)  
grassland(s)  
grass roots (noun)  
grass-roots (adj.)  
grey  
grounds pass  
groundwater  
groundwork  
gText  
guerrilla  
guidelines  
gunfire  
gynaecology
H

haemoglobin
haemorrhage
hajj (note: “hajj pilgrimage” is redundant)
halfway
hand grenade
handheld
Haram al-Sharif
harbour
hard-walled (adj.)
hardwired
hashtag
hawala
headwater
health care (noun)
health-care (adj.)
help desk
helpline
heretofore
herpesvirus
high-mortality-risk (adj.)
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)
HIV-positive
Hizbullah
home care (noun)
home-care (adj.)
home-made
homeowner
homeownership
home page
homeschool
homogeneous
honorariums
honorary
honour
hostage-taking
hot-desking
hotelling
hotspot
human resources (not hyphenated)
Humvee
hydroelectric
hydro-interaction

hydropower
hydrosystem
hygiene
hyper: compound forms are closed

I

Ibero-American
ibid. (see also Footnotes and other references)
ill: compound adjectives are hyphenated only when preceding a noun (e.g. an ill-designed project; the project is ill designed)
ill-treatment
imperilled
inasmuch as
income generation (noun)
income-generation (adj.)
in-depth (adj.)
indexes (lists in a book), indices (statistical)
indispensable
information and communications technology
information-sharing
infrared
in-house
initialled, initialling
in-kind (adj.)
in-migration
inpatient
inquire, inquiry (referring to a formal investigation) (cf. enquire)
in-session (adj.)
in situ
insofar
insourcing
install, installation, instalment
instil
institution-building
interactive
inter-agency
inter alia
inter-American
inter-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
meantime
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)
**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

country
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
nondescript
nonconformist
nonconformist
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

cities or octavies
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)
ordinance (munitions)
organization
organization chart (not “organigram(me)” or “organizational chart”)
organize
outmigration
out-of-court (adj)
out-of-date (adj.)
outpatient
outsourc
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.)
paralys
paramedical
paramilitary

part-time
passer-by (plural: passers-by)
payback (noun)
payday
payroll
peacebuilder, peacebuilding
peacekeeper, peacekeeping
peacemaker, peacemaking
peacetime
per annum
per capita
per cent
per diem
perinatal
peri-urban
per se
person-day, person-hour
phyto-: combinations are closed
place name
plebiscite
plough
P.O. Box
policyholder
policymaker, policymaking
policy-setting
post-adolescent
post-cold-war
postdoctoral
post-feminist
postglacial
postgraduate
post-industrial
post-marital
postmillennial
postmodern
post-mortem
*postnatal
post-neonatal
postnuptial
post-operative
post-partum
post-session
post-war
power plant
power-sharing
practice (noun)
practise (verb)
pre-adolescent
pre-book
**précis
précis-writer, précis-writing
preconceive
precondition
pre-construction
*predate
predeployment
pre-eclampsia
pre-embryo
pre-eminent
pre-empt
pre-establish
pre-exist
pre-ignition
pre-industrial
pre-initiation countries
pre-inspection
pre-investment
pre-marital
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  
refolement  
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.)  
riverside  
riverside  
riverbed  
river water  
roadbed  
roadblock  
road map  
roadwork  
rollback (noun)  
roll call (noun)  
roll-call (adj.)  
roll out (verb)  
roll-out (noun)  
roll over (verb)  
rollover (noun)  
round table (noun)  
round-table (adj.)  
routing  
RU486  
rule of law (not hyphenated)  
rumour  
run-off (noun and adj.)  
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)
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<td>*slum dweller</td>
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<td>smartphone</td>
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<td>semi-trailer</td>
<td>(plural: solicitors</td>
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<td>general)</td>
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<td>semi-weekly</td>
<td>sombre</td>
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<td>(twice a week)</td>
<td>south(ern), south-</td>
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<td>east(ern), south-</td>
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<td>west(ern)</td>
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<td>dates and time)</td>
<td>within a country)</td>
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<td>septicaemia</td>
<td>South(ern), South-</td>
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<td>East(ern), South-</td>
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<td>seroprevalence</td>
<td>West(ern) (a continent</td>
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<td>serostatus</td>
<td>or major region,</td>
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<td>set back (verb)</td>
<td>e.g. South America,</td>
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<td>Southern Africa,</td>
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<td>set up (verb)</td>
<td>Southern Europe,</td>
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<td>set-up (noun)</td>
<td>South-East Asia;</td>
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<td>exception: Association</td>
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<td>sewage (waste matter)</td>
<td>of Southeast Asian</td>
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<td>sewerage (system of</td>
<td>Nations)</td>
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<td>drains)</td>
<td>South-South</td>
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<td>sexies or sexiens</td>
<td>cooperation</td>
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<td>sex-selective (adj.)</td>
<td>southward</td>
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<td>shake up (verb)</td>
<td>spatial-profile</td>
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<td>model</td>
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<td>shanty town</td>
<td>specialize</td>
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<td>sharia</td>
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<td>speed dial (noun)</td>
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<td>spelled (not “spelt”)</td>
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<td>spillover (noun and</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>adj.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*slum dweller:智能手机

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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
symposiums
system-wide

T
takeover (noun)  
takfirism, takfiirst  
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

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

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
<table>
<thead>
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<td>washtub</td>
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<td>webmaster</td>
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<td>web ring</td>
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<td>water birth</td>
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<td>waterboard, waterboarding</td>
<td>weekend</td>
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<td>well: compound adjectives are hyphenated only when preceding a noun (e.g. a well-designed project; the project is well-designed)</td>
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<td>well-wisher</td>
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<td>west(ern) (a geographical direction or an area within a country)</td>
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<td>West(ern) (a major region, e.g. West Africa, Western Europe)</td>
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<td>west-north-west, west-south-west</td>
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<td>whistle-blower, whistle-blowing</td>
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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