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.
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<td>a priori</td>
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<td>armoury</td>
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<td>air conditioner, air conditioning (noun)</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary-General (plural: Assistant Secretaries-General)</td>
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<td>air-conditioned, air-conditioning (adj.)</td>
<td>*asylum seeker</td>
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<td>asylum-seeking (adj.)</td>
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<td>aircrew</td>
<td>attaché</td>
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attorney general
audio book
*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, benefitting
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)
brakeaway (noun and adj.)
brake down (verb)
brake down (noun)
brake through
break up (verb)
brake-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)
built-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

casefire (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

cildcare
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
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

co-copy

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, crowding

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
defacto
defence (but United States Department of
Defense, Israel Defense Forces)
def 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:- 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
extra-judicial
extra-legal
extramarital
extranet
extraregional
extraterritorial
*extra-uterine
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  
fight  
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
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<th>inter-annual</th>
<th>intra-State (within a country)</th>
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**intra:** compound forms are closed except:

- intra-agency
- intra-industry
- intra-mission

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*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

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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
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
milenniums
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

country
State
nationwide
neighbour
neonatal
nevertheless
newborn
newsgroup
newsstand
newswire
newsworthy

*nonco*: nonconforming, nonconformist
*nondescript*
*nonfeasance*
nonetheless
non sequitur
no one
northern, north-east(ern), north-west(ern)
(a geographical direction or an area within a country)
Northern (a continent or major region, e.g. North America, North Africa, Northern Europe)
northward
note verbale (plural: notes verbales)
*movies or noviens
nursing home (noun)

O

countrysides
odour
oesophagus
offence
*offensive*
*off-gas*
offhand
off-hours (noun)
office holder
off-label (adj.)
off-limits (adj.)
offline
offload
off-message (adj.)
off-peak
off-ramp (noun)
off-road
off season (noun)
off-season (adj. and adv.)
offset
offshore
*offsites (adj.)
offspring (singular and plural)
offshore

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
outsourcing
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.)
riverebed
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)
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”)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spillover (noun and adj.)</th>
<th>Step: compound forms are closed except:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stabilization</td>
<td>Step-parent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stabilize</td>
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<td>Staff-day, staff-hour</td>
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<td>Staff member</td>
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<td>Stakeholder</td>
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<td>Stalemate</td>
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<td>Standby (noun and adj.)</td>
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<td>Stand-alone (adj.)</td>
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<td>Stand in (verb)</td>
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<td>Stand-in (noun)</td>
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<td>State-building</td>
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<td>Stationary (not moving)</td>
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<td>Stationery (paper)</td>
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<td>Status-conscious</td>
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<td>Status of-forces agreement</td>
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<td>Status quo</td>
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<td>Steady-state (adj.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step</td>
<td>sub-account</td>
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<td>sub-amendment</td>
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<td>sub-bottom</td>
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<td>sub-branch</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Mention of the names of firms and commercial products does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations.*

*Last updated on 2 November 2020.*
takeover (noun)
takfīrism, takfīrist
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

**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 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