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 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, the most common of which are included below, are not italicized in United Nations documents. Foreign words that are not listed in that edition should, however, be 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
after: compound forms are closed except:
   after-effect
   after-image
age-appropriate (adj.)
ageing
ageism
age-selective (adj.)
age-specific (adj.)
agribusiness
agrifood
agriscience
agritourism
agroecological
agroecosystem
agroforestry
agro-industry
agropastoral
agrotourism
aides-memoires
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 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
antinatalism, antinatalist
anti-poverty
apartheid
a posteriori
appal, appalled, appalling
appendices
a priori
artefact
Assistant Secretary-General (of the United Nations) (plural: Assistant Secretaries-General)
*asylum seeker
attaché
attorney general
audiobook
*audiovisual
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
benefited, benefiting
bi: compound forms are closed
biannual (twice a year) biased
biennial (every second year)
**bienniums
bio: compound forms are closed
birth control
birth rate
bis
BlackBerry
blacklist (verb and noun)
blood-brain barrier
bond market
bookkeeping
bottleneck
brain drain
break away (verb)
breakaway (noun and adj.)
break down (verb)
breakdown (noun)
bring through
break up (verb)
brake-up (noun)
bridge price
bridge wealth
Brigadier General
broad band, broad banding (verb and noun, in ICSC documents)
broad-banded, broad-banding (adj., in ICSC documents)
broadband (telecommunications)
buy (noun)
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>case study</td>
<td>common law (noun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catalogue</td>
<td>common-law (adj.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catalyse</td>
<td>communiqué</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cathode ray tube</td>
<td>compel, compelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-ROM</td>
<td>compendiums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceasefire (noun and adj.)</td>
<td>confidence-building (noun and adj.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cellmate</td>
<td>connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cell phone</td>
<td>consensus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cellular phone</td>
<td>consortiums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centre, centred, centring</td>
<td>contingency-owned equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centrepiece</td>
<td>contraceptive-calendar method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chador</td>
<td>cookstove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>changeover (noun)</td>
<td>cooperate, cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>channelled, channelling</td>
<td>coordinate, coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chargé d'affaires (plural: chargés d’affaires)</td>
<td>co-payment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chat room</td>
<td>copy-edit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>checklist</td>
<td>cornerstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>checkpoint</td>
<td>corrigenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>check-up (noun)</td>
<td>cost accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chef de cabinet (plural: chefs de cabinet)</td>
<td>cost-effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cheque (bank)</td>
<td>cost-efficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chequebook</td>
<td>cost-of-living index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>childbearing</td>
<td>cost recovery (noun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>childbirth</td>
<td>cost-recovery (adj.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>childcare</td>
<td>councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child-rearing</td>
<td>counsel (verb and noun, singular and plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child-sensitive (adj.)</td>
<td>counselling, counsellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child spacing</td>
<td>counteract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chlorofluorocarbons</td>
<td>*counterargument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>classroom</td>
<td>counter-attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clearing house</td>
<td>counterbalance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>closed-end (adj.)</td>
<td>countercharge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>co-chair</td>
<td>counterclaim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coequal</td>
<td>counterclockwise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coexist</td>
<td>counterculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cofactor</td>
<td>countercyclical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cogeneration</td>
<td>counterdemonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cohort-component projections</td>
<td>counter-espionage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cold war</td>
<td>counter-example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>co-locate</td>
<td>counter-guarantee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colloquiums</td>
<td>counter-insurgency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colour</td>
<td>counter-intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>combatant</td>
<td>counter-intuitive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
curriculum vitae (plural: curricula vitae)
cut back (verb)
cutback (noun)
cut off (verb)
cut-off (noun and adj.)
cyber: compound forms are closed

D

databank
database
data-collection (adj.)
data processing (noun)
data-processing (adj.)
data processor
data set
day care (noun)
day-care (adj.)
*dead weight
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)
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.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Word(s)</th>
<th>Translation(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>draft (text)</td>
<td>eco-warrior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>draught (air and animal)</td>
<td>ecozone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>draw down (verb)</td>
<td>** Eid al-Adha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drawdown (noun)</td>
<td>** Eid al-Fitr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drift net (noun)</td>
<td>** e-mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drift-net (adj.)</td>
<td>embargoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drinking water</td>
<td>émigré</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drop out (verb)</td>
<td>emir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dropout (noun)</td>
<td>encyclopedia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drug dealer</td>
<td>endeavour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drug dealing</td>
<td>endogenization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drug-taking</td>
<td>end product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drug trafficking</td>
<td>end result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drug user</td>
<td>*end user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drug-using (adj.)</td>
<td>energy-efficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dry land (land as opposed to sea)</td>
<td>en route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dryland(s) (type of ecosystem)</td>
<td>equalled, equalling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dwelling unit</td>
<td>equipped, equipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysfunctional</td>
<td>euro, euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drinking water</td>
<td>Eurobond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dry land</td>
<td>*eurozone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dryland(s)</td>
<td>ever-married (adj.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dwelling unit</td>
<td>everyday (adj.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysfunctional</td>
<td>every day (adv.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early (ern) (a geographical direction or an area within a country)</td>
<td>exaggerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East(ern) (a major region, e.g. East Africa, Eastern Europe)</td>
<td>Excel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>east-north-east, east-south-east</td>
<td>ex gratia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eastward</td>
<td>ex officio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eco-friendly</td>
<td>exorbitant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eco-label, eco-labelling</td>
<td>expel, expelled, expelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecosystem</td>
<td>export-processing zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecotourism</td>
<td>exposé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eco-warrior</td>
<td>export-processing zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecozone</td>
<td>extrabudgetary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Eid al-Adha</td>
<td>**extracurricular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Eid al-Fitr</td>
<td>extrajudicial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** e-mail</td>
<td>extralegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>embargoes</td>
<td>extramarital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>émigré</td>
<td>extraregional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emir</td>
<td>extraterritorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>encyclopedia</td>
<td>*extrauterine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>endeavour</td>
<td>eyewitness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F

fact-finding
fait accompli
fall-off (noun)
fall out (verb)
fallop (noun)
family-life (adj.)
family planning (noun and adj.)
farmland
far-reaching
favour
feedback
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.)
fixed-period (adj.)
fixed-wing (adj.)
flak
flash flood
flavour
flexit ime (generic)
Flexitime (attendance system)
flow chart
flowsheet
focused, focuses, focusing
foetus
follow through (verb)
follow-through (noun)
follow up (verb)
follow-up (noun and adj.)

foodgrain
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-neutral
gender-specific
girl child
globalization
globalize
gMeets
good-neighbourly (adj.)
goodwill
gonorrhoea
gram
grant-in-aid (plural: grants-in-aid)
grassland(s)
grass roots (noun)
grey
grass-roots (adj.)
ground pass
groundwater
groundwork
gText
guerrilla
guidelines
gunfire
gynaecology
homogeneous
honorary
honorary
honour
hostage-taking
hot-desking
hotelling
hotspot
Humvee
hydroelectric
hydro-interaction
hydropower
hydrosystem
hygiene
hyper: compound forms are closed
hajj (note: “hajj pilgrimage” is redundant)
haemoglobin
haemorrhage
halfway
gunfire
handmade
handheld
Haram al-Sharif
harbour
hard-walled (adj.)
hardwired
hashtag
hawala
headwater
health care (noun)
health-care (adj.)
helpline
help desk
inasmuch as
income generation (noun)
in-depth (adj.)
imperilled
income-generation (adj.)
indexes (lists in a book), indices (statistical)
indispensable
information and communications technology
infrared
in-house
initialled, initialling
in-kind (adj.)
in-migration
inpatient
in-sessional (adj.)
insourcing
install, installation, instalment
instil
in situ
insofar
institution-building
interactive
inter-agency
inter alia
inter-American
inter-annual
interbank
inter-birth
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-agency
intracountry
intradepartmental
intradistrict
intradivisional
intrafamily
intragovernmental
intra-industry
*intranet
intraregional
intraspecies
intrastate (within a state)
intra-State (within a country)
intra-urban
intraterine
intravenous
in vitro
inward (adj.)
inwards (adv.)
ipso facto
iSeek
IV drug user

J

jail
jihad, jihadi
Judaize
judgement (but judgment when referring to the International Court of Justice or the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (see also Capitalization in English)
judgemental
jump-start

K

keffiyeh
kick-start
kilogram (kg)
kilometre (km)
kilovolt-ampere (kVA)
kilowatt (kW)
kilowatt-hour (kWh)
*kin group
know-how
knowledge-sharing
Koran

L

labelled, labelling
laborious
labour
labour-force (adj.)
labour-market (adj.)
laissez-faire
laissez-passer (singular and plural)
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
letter of assist
leukaemia
levelled, levelling
liaison
liberalization
liberalize
licence (noun)
license (verb)
Lieutenant General
life cycle
lifelong
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.)

M

machine gun
machine-readable
macro: compound forms are closed except:
    macro-unit
mainframe
mainland
Major General
mandate holder
man-hour
man-made
manoeuvre
man-portable air defence system (not MANPADS)
marketplace
market town
mark up (verb)
markup (noun)
marriage timing (noun)
marriage-timing (adj.)
marshal
marshalled, marshalling
master plan
materiel
matrices
meagre
meantime
meanwhile
medium-sized (adj.)
medium-variant (adj.)
meeting place
*megacity
megajoule (MJ)
megavolt (MV)
megavolt-ampere (MVA)
member-days
memorandums
Mesoamerica
**Messrs. (in English)
meter (instrument)
metre (unit of length)
micro: compound forms are closed except:
  micro-business
  micro-entrepreneur
  micro-environment
  micro-event
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
millenniums
mindset
mine clearance (noun)
mine-clearance (adj.)
minefield
minimize
misspelled (not “misspelt”)
misstep
*Mmes. (in English)
modelled, modelling
modus operandi
money-laundering
moneylender, moneylending
money market (noun and adj.)
moneys
moratoriums
mores
mould
movable
** Mr.
** Mrs.
** Ms.
Muhammad (the Prophet)
mujahid (plural: mujahideen)
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
multilateral
multilayer
multilingual
multimedia
multimillion
multinational
multipara
multipartite
multiparty
multiphase
multiplatform
multiple-choice (adj.)
multipolar
multiprocessor
*multipurpose
multiracial
multisectoral
multi-skilled
multi-stakeholder
*multistorey
multitalented
multitask, multitasker, multitasking
multitrack
multi-user
multi-utility
multivendor
multi-year
Muslim
mutatis mutandis

N
nation State
nationwide
neighbour
neonatal
nevertheless
newborn
newsfeed
newsfeed
newsflash
newsgroup
news stand
newswire
newsworthy
niqab
no-fly zone
no-man’s-land

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

O
octies or octiens
odour
oedema
oesophagus
offence
offensive
off-gas
offhand
off-hours (noun)
office holder
off-label (adj.)
off-limits (adj.)
offline
offload
off-message (adj.)
off-peak
off-ramp (noun)
off-road
off season (noun)
off-season (adj. and adv.)
offset
offshore
off-site (adj.)
offspring (singular and plural)  
oilfield  
oil well  
old age (noun)  
old-age (adj.)  
old-growth (adj.)  
omega-3 fatty acid  
on-board (adj.) (on a ship or aircraft)  
onboarding (in human resources)  
ongoing  
online  
on-message (adj.)  
on-screen  
onshore  
on-site (adj.)  
onward (adj. and adv.)  
op-ed (noun and adj.)  
ordinance (law)  
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  
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  
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
pretence
pretrial
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)
programme
pronatalism, pronatalist
proofread, proofreader
pro rata
prorate
psycho: compound forms are closed
public sector (not hyphenated)

Q

quater
quinquies or quinquiens

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-engineer
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
re*reroute
results-based (adj.)
results-oriented (adj.)
résumé
retro: combinations are closed
reversible
right to life (noun)
right-to-life (adj.)
rigorous
rigour
risk reduction (noun and adj.)
riverbed
river water
roadbed
roadblock
road map
roadwork
rollback (noun)
roll call (noun)
roll-call (adj.)
roll out (verb)
roll-out (noun)
roll over (verb)
rollover (noun)
round table (noun)
round-table (adj.)
route
ruled
rule of law (not hyphenated)
rumour
run-off (noun and adj.)
rural
rural-urban (demographic movement)
rural/urban (comparison)

S

safe-period method
salary earner
saleable
salt water (noun)
saltwater (adj.)
satellite
savings bank
sceptic, sceptical, scepticism
school-age (adj.)
schoolbook
schoolchild
schoolday
schoolroom
schoolteacher
schoolwork
seabed
sea floor
sea level
seaport
seawater
** Secretary-General (of the United
Nations) (plural: Secretaries-General)
sectoral
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, semi-official, semi-permanent, semi-precious, semi-professional, semi-retired, semi-rigid, semi-skilled, semi-solid, semi-trailer, 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, sociobiology, sociocultural, sociodemographic, * **socioeconomic, *sociomedical, sociopolitical, soft-walled (adj.), solicitor general (plural: solicitors general), sombre, south(ern), south-east(ern), south-west(ern) (a geographical direction or an area within a country), South(ern), South-East(ern), South-West(ern) (a continent or major region, e.g. South America, Southern Africa, Southern Europe, South-East Asia; exception: Association of Southeast Asian Nations), South-South cooperation, southward, spatial-profile model, specialize, speed-dial (verb), speed dial (noun), spelled (not “spelt”), spillover (noun and adj.), stabilization, stabilize, staff-day, staff-hour, staff member, stakeholder, stalemate, standby (noun and adj.), stand-alone (adj.), stand in (verb)
stand-in (noun)  sub-let
State-building  sub-munitions
stationary (not moving)  sub-office
stationery (paper)  sub-prime
status-conscious  sub-province
status-of-forces agreement  sub-Saharan
status quo  sub-theme
steady-state (adj.)  sub-zero
step: compound forms are closed except:
  step-parent
stillbirth  subject matter (noun)
stillborn (adj.)  subprogram (computing only)
stockbreeder  subprogramme
stockbroker  subunit
stockholder  succinct
stock market  summarize
stockpile  Sunna (traditional Muslim law)
stocktaking  Sunni (adj. and noun, singular and plural)
storefront  Sunnite
storekeeper  **super-Power
storey (of a building)  supersede
straightforward  superstructure
strikebreaker  supervisor
strike-slip fault  surface water (noun)
strip-search  surface-water (adj.)
s*subj: compound forms are closed except:
  sub-account  suspense account
  sub-amendment  symposiums
  sub-aquatic  system-wide
  sub-area
  sub-assembly
  sub-branch
  sub-bureau
  sub-calibre
  sub-centre
  sub-discipline
  sub-element
  sub-entry
  sub-folder
  sub-interval
  sub-issue
  sub-item
  sub-lessee
  sub-lessee
  T

takeover (noun)
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
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
tunelled, 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

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 (of the United
Nations) (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 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** |
| **voiceprint** |
| **W** |
| **wage earner** |
| **wage-earning** |
| **wagon** |
| **Wahhabi** |
| **walkie-talkie** |
| **walk in (verb)** |
| **walk-in (adj.)** |
| **walkout (noun)** |
| **walk-through (noun)** |
| **wallboard** |
| **wallchart** |
| **Walloon** |
| **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
work out (verb)
workout (noun)
work permit
workplace
workplan
workroom
worksheet
workshop
worksiteworkspace
workstation
workweek
worldwide
would-be (adj.)
write down (verb)
write-down (noun)
write in (verb)
write-in (noun)
write off (verb)
write-off (noun)
write-protect, write-protected
write up (verb)
write-up (noun)
wrongdoing
X
X chromosome
xeno: compound forms are closed
X factor
X-ray
Y
yarmulke
Y chromosome
year-on-year (adj.)
year-round (adj.)
YouTube
Z

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