



United Nations Editorial Manual Online

Spelling

The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, twelfth edition, is the current authority for spelling in the United Nations. If more than one spelling is given in the dictionary, use the form listed first unless otherwise indicated below.

The 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	airlift
abridgement	air raid
acknowledgement	airspace
addenda	air traffic control
ad hoc	AK-47
ad infinitum	allot, allotted, allotment
ad litem	Al-Qaida
adviser	aluminium
aeroplane	among (not “amongst”)
aesthetic	anaemia
aforementioned	anaesthetic
after: compound forms are closed except:	analogue (but analog in computer technology)
after-effect	analyse
after-image	antenatal
age-appropriate (adj.)	antennae (insects)
ageing	antennas (aerials)
ageism	anti-abortion
age-selective (adj.)	anti-aircraft
age-specific (adj.)	antifertility
agribusiness	anti-inflammatory
agrifood	antimalarial
agriscience	antimicrobial
agritourism	antinatalism, antinatalist
agroecological	anti-poverty
agroecosystem	apartheid
agroforestry	a posteriori
agro-industry	appal, appalled, appalling
agropastoral	appendices
agroterrorism	a priori
aides-memoires	artefact
AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)	Assistant Secretary-General (of the United Nations) (plural: Assistant Secretaries-General)
airbag	*asylum seeker
air conditioner, air conditioning (noun)	attaché
air-conditioned, air-conditioning (adj.)	attorney general
aircraft (singular and plural)	audiobook
aircrew	*audiovisual
airdrop	avant-garde
airfare	awareness-raising (noun and adj.)
airfield	ayatollah
airfreight	

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)
breakthrough

break up (verb)
break-up (noun)
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	common law (noun)
catalogue	common-law (adj.)
catalyse	communiqué
cathode ray tube	compel, compelled
CD-ROM	compendiums
ceasefire (noun and adj.)	confidence-building (noun and adj.)
cellmate	connection
cell phone	consensus
cellular phone	**consortiums
centre, centred, centring	contingent-owned equipment
centrepiece	contraceptive-calendar method
chador	cookstove
changeover (noun)	cooperate, cooperation
channelled, channelling	coordinate, coordination
chargé d'affaires (plural: chargés d'affaires)	co-payment
chat room	copy-edit
checklist	copy editor
checkpoint	cornerstone
check-up (noun)	corrigenda
chef de cabinet (plural: chefs de cabinet)	cost accounting
cheque (bank)	cost-effective
chequebook	cost-efficient
childbearing	cost-of-living index
childbirth	cost recovery (noun)
childcare	cost-recovery (adj.)
child-rearing	councillor
child-sensitive (adj.)	counsel (verb and noun, singular and plural)
child spacing	counselling, counsellor
chlorofluorocarbons	counteract
classroom	*counterargument
clearing house	counter-attack
closed-end (adj.)	counterbalance
co-chair	countercharge
coequal	counterclaim
coexist	counterclockwise
cofactor	counterculture
cogeneration	countercyclical
cohort-component projections	counterdemonstration
cold war	counter-espionage
co-locate	counter-example
colloquiums	counter-guarantee
colour	counter-insurgency
combatant	counter-intelligence
combated, combating	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
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.)

draft (text)
draught (air and animal)
draw down (verb)
drawdown (noun)
drift net (noun)
drift-net (adj.)
drinking water
drop out (verb)
dropout (noun)
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)
dwelling unit
dysfunctional

E

e-: all compound forms are hyphenated,
except where the second element begins
with a capital letter:

eDoc
eMeets
ePAS
eRef
early-initiation (adj.)
early-marriage (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
** e-mail
embargoes
émigré
emir
encyclopedia
endeavour
endogenization
end product
end result
*end user
energy-efficient
enrol, enrolled, enrolling, enrolment
en route
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
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
flexitime (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)

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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
Humvee
hydroelectric
hydro-interaction
hydropower
hydrosystem
hygiene
hyper: compound forms are closed

I

ibid. (see also *Footnotes and other references*)
imperilled
inasmuch as
income generation (noun)
income-generation (adj.)
in-depth (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-session (adj.)
in situ
inssofar
insourcing
install, installation, instalment
instil
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
intrauterine
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

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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
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.)

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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
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
*reroute
results-based (adj.)
results-oriented (adj.)
résumé
retro: combinations are closed
reversible
right to life (noun)
right-to-life (adj.)
rigorous
rigour
risk reduction (noun and adj.)
riverbed
river water
roadbed
roadblock
road map
roadwork
rollback (noun)
roll call (noun)
roll-call (adj.)
roll out (verb)
roll-out (noun)
roll over (verb)
rollover (noun)
round table (noun)

round-table (adj.)
routing
RU486
rule 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
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	side effect
semi-cylinder	sine qua non
semi-darkness	sizeable
semi-detached	size class
semi-final	skilful
semi-finished	skill set
semi-independent	slow down (verb)
semi-invalid	slowdown (noun)
semi-literate	*slum dweller
semi-monthly	sociobiology
semi-official	sociocultural
semi-permanent	sociodemographic
semi-precious	* **socioeconomic
semi-professional	*sociomedical
semi-retired	sociopolitical
semi-rigid	soft-walled (adj.)
semi-skilled	solicitor general (plural: solicitors general)
semi-solid	sombre
semi-trailer	south(ern), south-east(ern), south- west(ern)
septicaemia	(a geographical direction or an area within a country)
septies <i>or</i> septiens	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)
seroprevalence	South-South cooperation
serostatus	southward
set back (verb)	spatial-profile model
setback (noun)	specialize
set up (verb)	speed-dial (verb)
set-up (noun)	speed dial (noun)
sewage (waste matter)	spelled (not “spelt”)
sewerage (system of drains)	spillover (noun and adj.)
sexies <i>or</i> sexiens	stabilization
sex-selective (adj.)	stabilize
shake up (verb)	staff-day, staff-hour
shake-up (noun)	staff member
shanty town	stakeholder
sharia	stalemate
sheikh	standby (noun and adj.)
shellfire	stand-alone (adj.)
Shia	stand in (verb)
Shiite	
shopkeeper	
shortcoming	
shortfall	
shortlist	
short-lived	

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-branch
 sub-bureau
 sub-calibre
 sub-centre
 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-prime
sub-province
sub-Saharan
sub-theme
sub-zero
subject matter (noun)
subprogram (computing only)
subprogramme
*subunit
succour
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)
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
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

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
worksite
workspace
workstation
workweek
worldwide
would-be (adj.)

write down (verb)
write-down (noun)
write in (verb)
write-in (noun)
write off (verb)
write-off (noun)
write-protect, write-protected
write up (verb)
write-up (noun)
wrongdoing

X

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

Y

yarmulke
Y chromosome
year-on-year (adj.)
year-round (adj.)
YouTube

Z

zero gravity

zeros

zero-sum (adj.)

zero-tolerance (adj.)

zigzag

zoogeography

zookeeper

zoonosis

zooplankton

Z particle