



## *United Nations Editorial Manual Online*

### **Spelling**

The online Oxford Dictionary (<https://premium.oxforddictionaries.com/english>) (set to British English) 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 Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, twelfth edition, 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 online Oxford 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 online Oxford Dictionary 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 online Oxford Dictionary.

\*\*\* Indicates both a change from previous practice and an exception to the online Oxford Dictionary.

## A

- above-mentioned  
abridgement  
acknowledgement  
addenda  
ad hoc  
ad infinitum  
ad litem  
adviser  
aeroplane  
aesthetic  
aforementioned  
Afrodescendant (noun) (preferred: person of African descent)  
Afrodescendent (adj.) (preferred: of African descent)  
after: compound forms are closed except:  
    after-effect  
    after-image  
    after-service  
age-appropriate (adj.)  
ageing  
ageism  
age-selective (adj.)  
age-specific (adj.)  
agribusiness  
\*\*agrifood  
agriscience  
agritourism  
agroecological  
agroecosystem  
agroforestry  
agro-industry  
agropastoral  
agroprocessing  
agroterrorism  
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 strike  
air traffic control  
AK-47  
allot, allotted, allotment  
\*\*Al-Qaida  
aluminium  
among (not “amongst”)  
anaemia  
anaesthetic  
analogue (but analog in computer technology)  
analyse  
antenatal  
antennae (insects)  
antennas (aerials)  
anti-abortion  
anti-aircraft  
antifertility  
anti-inflammatory  
antimalarial  
antimicrobial  
anti-money-laundering (adj.; not to be used as a noun)  
anti-poverty  
\*\*antisemitism  
apartheid  
a posteriori  
appal, appalled, appalling  
appendices  
a priori  
armoury  
artefact  
Assistant Secretary-General (plural: Assistant Secretaries-General)  
\*\*\*asylum-seeker  
asylum-seeking (adj.)  
attaché

attorney general  
audiobook  
\*audiovisual  
auditor general  
avant-garde  
awareness-raising (noun and adj.)  
ayatollah

## B

\*Baath Party, Baathist  
baby boom (noun)  
\*\*baby-boom (adj.)  
back-calculation procedure  
backstop (verb and noun)  
back up (verb)  
backup (noun and adj.)  
backward (adj.)  
backwards (adv.)  
balance of payments (noun)  
balance-of-payments (adj.)  
balance sheet  
bandwidth  
baseline  
base-year (adj.)  
bednet  
Bedouin (singular and plural)  
beforehand  
behaviour  
behave  
benefited, benefiting  
benefit-sharing  
bi: compound forms are closed (see also  
“Ambiguous terms” under *Numbers, dates and time*):  
biannual (twice a year)  
biennial (every second year)  
\*\*bienniums  
bimonthly (every two months)  
biweekly (every two weeks)  
biased  
bio: compound forms are closed  
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.)  
 capacity development (noun)  
 capacity-development (adj.)  
 capital (city, money)  
 Capitol (building)  
 caregiver  
 care provider  
 caretaker  
 CarLog  
 carry over (verb)  
 carry-over (noun)  
 carte blanche  
 carve out (verb)  
 carveout (noun)  
 case-by-case (adj.)  
 \*\*case-fatality rate  
 case law  
 caseload  
 case study  
 cash flow (noun)  
 \*\*cash-flow (adj.)  
 catalogue  
 catalyse  
 cathode ray tube  
 CD-ROM  
 ceasefire (noun and adj.)  
 cellmate  
 cell phone  
 cellular phone  
 centre, centred, centring  
 centrepiece  
 chador  
 Chair-designate  
 changeover (noun)  
 channelled, channelling  
 \*chargeback  
 chargé d'affaires (singular invariable;  
 plural: chargés d'affaires)  
 chat room  
 checklist  
 checkpoint  
 check-up (noun)  
 chef de cabinet (plural: chefs de cabinet)

cheque (bank)  
 chequebook  
 childbearing  
 childbirth  
 childcare  
 child-rearing  
 child-sensitive  
 child spacing  
 chlorofluorocarbons  
 classroom  
 clearing house (n); clearing-house (adj.)  
 closed-end (adj.)  
 co-chair  
 coequal  
 coexist  
 cofactor  
 cogeneration  
 cohort-component projections  
 cold war  
 co-locate  
 colloquiums  
 colour  
 combatant  
 combated, combating  
 \*\*Commissioner-General  
 common law (noun)  
 common-law (adj.)  
 communiqué  
 comorbidity  
 compel, compelled  
 compendiums  
 confidence-building (noun and adj.)  
 connection  
 consensus  
 \*\*consortiums  
 contingent-owned equipment  
 contraceptive-calendar method  
 convener  
 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.)  
cost-sharing  
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  
credentialled, credentialling  
creditworthiness

cropland  
cross-country  
cross-cutting  
cross-reference (verb)  
cross reference (noun)  
cross section  
cross-sectoral  
cross-tabulation  
crowdsource, 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

\*\*Da'esh  
darknet  
databank  
database  
data-collection (adj.)  
data processing (noun)  
data-processing (adj.)  
data processor  
data set  
data-sharing  
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	drinking water
*delist	drop out (verb)
demagogy	dropout (noun and adj.)
démarche	drug dealer
demining	drug dealing
demographic-economic model	drug-taking
dependant (noun)	drug trafficking
dependent (adj.)	drug user
depository (person or entity with which a treaty is deposited)	drug-using (adj.)
depository (warehouse)	dry land (land as opposed to sea)
derestricted	dryland(s) (type of ecosystem)
de-risk	**dunum
desiccate	duty bearer
desktop	dwelling unit
détente	dysfunctional
diarrhoea	
dieback (noun)	
digitalize (adapt a system or process)	
digitize (convert material into a digital format)	
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.)	

## 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 (noun)  
end-user (adj.)  
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  
fact sheet  
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)  
Flexitime (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-responsive  
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



## 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-African  
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  
\*lawmaking  
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  
liveable  
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 (noun)  
\*\*lump-sum (adj.)

## 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)Māori  
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  
    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 (preferred: intermediary)  
midlife (noun and adj.)  
mid-ocean, mid-oceanic  
midpoint  
\*\*mid-range  
\*midseason  
\*midsize  
midsummer  
midterm  
midway  
midweek  
midwife  
midwinter  
\*\*midyear  
mileage  
milieux  
millenniums  
mindset  
mine clearance (noun)  
mine-clearance (adj.)  
minefield  
minimize

misspelled (not “misspelt”)  
misstep  
\*Mmes. (in English)  
modelled, modelling  
modus operandi  
\*\*money-laundering (noun and adj.)  
moneylender, moneylending  
money market (noun and adj.)  
moneys  
moratoriums  
mores  
mould  
movable  
\*\*Mr.  
\*\*Mrs.  
\*\*Ms.  
Muhammad (the Prophet)  
mujahid (plural: \*\*\*mujahidin)  
multi-access  
multi-bilateral  
multibillion  
multi-cause  
multicellular  
\*\*multi-centred  
multichannel  
multi-client  
multicoloured  
multi-country  
multicultural  
multidimensional  
multidisciplinary  
\*\*multi-donor  
multi-ethnic  
\*\*multi-faith  
multifocal  
multifunctional  
multigenerational  
multigrade  
multigrain  
multigravida  
multi-hazard  
multi-jurisdictional  
multilateral  
multilayer  
multilevel

multilingual  
multimedia  
multimillion  
multinational  
multipara  
multipartite  
multi-partner  
multiparty  
multiphase  
multiplatform  
multiple-choice (adj.)  
multipolar  
multiprocessor  
\*multipurpose  
multiracial  
multisectoral  
\*\*multi-skilled  
multi-stakeholder  
\*multistorey  
multitalented  
multitask, multitasker, multitasking  
multitrack  
multi-user  
multi-utility  
multivendor  
multi-year  
Muslim  
mutatis mutandis

## N

nation State  
nationwide  
neighbour  
neonatal  
neuro: compound forms are closed  
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  
        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)  
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	postnuptial
paper-smart (adj.)	post-operative
paralyse	post-partum
paramedical	post-session
paramilitary	post-war
part-time	power plant
passer-by (plural: passers-by)	power-sharing
payback (noun)	practice (noun)
payday	practise (verb)
payroll	pre-adolescent
peacebuilder, peacebuilding	pre-book
peacekeeper, peacekeeping	**précis
peacekeeping-intelligence (noun and adj.)	précis-writer, précis-writing
peacemaker, peacemaking	preconceive
peacetime	precondition
*penholder	pre-construction
per annum	*predate
per capita	predawn
per cent	predeployment
per diem	pre-eclampsia
perinatal	pre-embryo
peri-urban	pre-eminent
per se	pre-empt
person-day, person-hour	pre-establish
phyto-: combinations are closed	pre-exist
place name	pre-ignition
plebiscite	pre-industrial
plough	pre-initiation countries
**P.O. Box	pre-inspection
policyholder	pre-investment
policymaker, policymaking	premarital
policy-setting	*premodern
post-adolescent	prenatal
post-cold-war	pre-owned
postdoctoral	pre-package
post-feminist	pre-plan
postglacial	pre-position
postgraduate	pre-press
post-industrial	pre-production
post-marital	pre-qualify
postmillennial	pre-record
postmodern	*preregister
post-mortem	pre-release
*postnatal	preschool
**post-neonatal	*prescreen

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  
pro-cyclical  
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.)  
rights holder (not hyphenated)  
rigorous  
rigour  
risk reduction (noun and adj.)  
riverbed



river water  
roadbed  
roadblock  
road map  
roadwork  
rollback (noun and verb)  
roll call (noun)  
roll-call (adj.)  
roll forward (noun and verb)  
roll out (verb)  
roll-out (noun)  
roll over (verb)  
rollover (noun)  
round table (noun)  
round-table (adj.)  
routing  
\*\*RU486  
rule-making  
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  
\*seafloor

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  
 small-satellite (adj.)  
 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”)  
 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)  
 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  
strived (not “strove” or “striven”)  
\*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-centre  
sub-clan  
sub-discipline  
sub-element  
sub-goal  
sub-issue  
sub-item  
sub-lessee  
sub-lessor  
\*\*sub-let  
sub-office  
sub-prefect  
sub-prefecture  
sub-prime  
sub-Saharan  
sub-seafloor  
sub-theme  
sub-working group  
sub-zero  
subject matter (not hyphenated)  
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  
syllabuses  
symposiums  
system-wide

## T

takeover (noun)  
takfirism, takfirist  
Taliban  
targeted, targeting  
tariff  
task force  
taxpayer  
tear gas (noun)  
\*\*tear-gas (adj.)  
\*telehealth  
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  
truth-seeker (noun and adj.)  
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

## 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  
 web map  
 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)  
 \*whitelist (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  
workstream  
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

xeno: compound forms are closed  
X factor  
X-ray

## X

X chromosome

## Y

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

## Z

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