

The **HUTCHINSON**

Dictionary of Abbreviations

OPEC **DNA**
GCSE **RSPCA** **MASH** **RSVP** **VAT**
TGWU **MOR**
CFC **UNICEF**



Helicon

The Hutchinson Dictionary of Abbreviations

Preface

Here at last is a dictionary that not only gives the expanded form of abbreviations, but also explains them. Concentrating on currently used terms, there are clear explanations of abbreviations from fields such as computing, current affairs, medicine, education, warfare, and even newspaper advertisements.

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Helicon Publishing
New Mill House
183 Milton Park
Abingdon
Oxon OX14 4SE
e-mail: helicon@rm.com
Web site: www.helicon.co.uk

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A

Å angstrom

A or **amp** ampere

A1 first class

AA Alcoholics Anonymous; Automobile Association

ABC American Broadcasting Company

ab init. *ab initio* (Latin 'from the beginning')

ABM anti-ballistic missile

ABTA Association of British Travel Agents

AC alternating current (electricity)

ACAS Advisory, Conciliation, and Arbitration Service

acct. account

AC/DC alternating or direct current (electricity)

ACLU American Civil Liberties Union

ACTH adrenocorticotropin or adrenocorticotrophic hormone

ACV air-cushion vehicle

AD *anno Domini* (Latin 'in the year of the Lord')

ADC analogue-to-digital converter

ADD attention deficit disorder

ADH antidiuretic hormone

adj. adjective

admin. administration, administrative, administrator

ADP adenosine diphosphate; automatic data processing

adv. adverb

AEA Atomic Energy Authority

AFD accelerated freeze drying

AFV armoured fighting vehicle

AGM annual general meeting

AGR advanced gas-cooled (nuclear) reactor

AH *anno Hegirae* (Latin 'year of the migration' - of Muhammad, from Mecca to Medina)

AI artificial intelligence; artificial insemination

AID artificial insemination by donor

AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome

AIH artificial insemination by husband

a.k.a. also known as

AM amplitude modulation

a.m. *ante meridiem* (Latin 'before noon')

amt. amount

amu atomic mass unit

ANC African National Congress

ANSI American National Standards Institute

AOB any other business

AP Associated Press

APEX Advance-Purchase Excursion (reduced air fares)

APC armoured personnel carrier

API application programming interface

approx. approximately

APR annual (or annualized) percentage rate (charged for credit)

ARC Aids-related complex

ASA Advertising Standards Authority

a.s.a.p. as soon as possible

ASAT antisatellite weapon

ASCII American Standard Code for Information Interchange

ASEAN Association of South East Asian Nations

ASH Action on Smoking and Health

ASL above sea level

ATM automatic (or automated) teller machine; antitank missile

atm atmosphere

AT&T American Telephone and Telegraph (Company)

AU atomic unit; astronomical unit

AV Authorized Version (of the Bible)

avdp avoirdupois

AWACS Airborne Warning and Control System

AWOL absent without (official)leave

B

b. born

BA Bachelor of Arts; British Airways

BAA British Airports Authority

BAFTA British Academy of Film and Television Arts

BALPA British Airline Pilots' Association

B & B bed and breakfast

BBC British Broadcasting Corporation

BC before Christ

BCE before the Common Era

BCG bacillus of Calmette and Guérin (for inoculation against TB)

B Ed Bachelor of Education

BFA Bachelor of Fine Arts

BFPO British Forces Post Office

bhp brake horsepower

BL British Library

BM British Museum

BMR basal metabolic rate

BO body odour

BP before the present; blood pressure; British Petroleum; British Pharmacopoeia

bp boiling point

bpi bits per inch

bps bits per second (transmission speed of electronic data)

BR British Rail

BS British Standard

BSc Bachelor of Science

BSE bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease)

BSI British Standards Institution

Btu or BThU British thermal unit

BUPA British United Provident Association (for health insurance)

C

C (Latin *centum*, 'hundred'); century; centigrade; Celsius; 100 (Roman numeral)

c. circa (Latin 'about')

CAA Civil Aviation Authority

CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau

CAD computer-aided design

CAI computer-aided instruction

cal calorie

CAM computer-aided manufacture

CAP Common Agricultural Policy (of the European Union)

CARICOM Caribbean Community and Common Market

CAT computerized axial tomography (as in CAT scan)

CB citizens' band (radio); Companion of (the Order of) the Bath

CBE Commander of (the Order of) the British Empire

CBS Columbia Broadcasting System

cc cubic centimetre; carbon copy/copies

CCP Code of Civil Procedure

CCU coronary care unit (of a hospital)

CD compact disc; civil defence; Corps Diplomatique (French Diplomatic Corps)

cd candela, a unit of luminous intensity

CD-I compact disc interactive

CD-ROM compact disc read-only memory

CDT craft, design, technology

CE Common Era

CEGB Central Electricity Generating Board

CEO chief executive officer

CERN Conseil européen pour la recherche nucléaire (French, European Organization for Nuclear Research)

CET Central European Time

cf. confer (Latin 'compare')

CFC chlorofluorocarbon

CFE College of Further Education

CFO chief fire officer

cfs cubic feet per second

cgs centimetre-gram-second

CH Companion of Honour

ch. chapter

chg. charge

CIA Central Intelligence Agency

CID Criminal Investigation Department

CIO Congress of Industrial Organizations

CIS Commonwealth of Independent States; cataloguing in source (in bibliography)

CISC complex instruction set computer

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

CJD Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

ck. check; cook; cask

cl centilitre

cm centimetre

CND Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

CNN Cable News Network

c/o care of

co. company

CO Commanding Officer

COBOL Common Business-Oriented Language

COD cash on delivery

C of E Church of England

Comintern Communist International (1919-43)

COI Central Office of Information

Comsat Communications Satellite

cos cosine

cot cotangent

cpm characters per minute

CPO chief petty officer; crime prevention officer

CPP current purchasing power

CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation

CPS Crown Prosecution Service

CPU central processing unit (computing)

CRC camera-ready copy (in printing)

CRT cathode-ray tube

csc cosecant

CSA Child Support Agency

CSCE Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

cu cubic (measure)

c.v. curriculum vitae

cwt symbol for hundredweight, a unit of weight equal to 112 lb (50.80 kg) in Canada and the UK, and 100 lb (45.36 kg) in the USA

D

d. day; diameter; died

D 500 (Roman numeral)

DA District Attorney (in US); Department of Agriculture

DAT digital audio tape

dB decibel

DBE Dame Commander of (the Order of) the British Empire

dbl or dble double

DC *da capo* (Italian 'from the beginning', in music); direct current (electricity)

DC District of Columbia (US); Detective Constable

DCM Distinguished Conduct Medal

DD Doctor of Divinity

DDS Doctor of Dental Surgery

DDT dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (an insecticide)

dept department

DFC Distinguished Flying Cross

DFE Department for Education

DFM Distinguished Flying Medal

DI Detective Inspector; donor insemination

DIANE Direct Information Access for Europe

DIN Deutsche Industrie-Norm, a series of international technical standards set by the Deutsches Institut für Normung

DJ dinner jacket; disc jockey

DJI Dow Jones Index (US Stock Exchange)

DJIA Dow Jones Industrial Average (US Stock Exchange)

dI decilitre

DM Deutschmark

DMus Doctor of Music

DNA deoxyribonucleic acid

DOA dead on arrival

DoE Department of Employment

DoE Department of the Environment

DoH Department of Health

DOS disc operating system (computing)

DoT Department of Transport

doz. dozen

DPhil Doctor of Philosophy

DPP Director of Public Prosecutions

Dr doctor

dr dram

DSC Distinguished Service Cross

DSM Distinguished Service Medal

DSS Department of Social Security

DTI Department of Trade and Industry

DTP desktop publishing

DT's delirium tremens

DVD digital video disc

DVLA Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority

E

E east

E & OE errors and omissions excepted

EBU European Broadcasting Union

EC European Community

ECG electrocardiogram; electrocardiograph

ECM electronic counter measures

ECU European Currency Unit (also ecu); European Customs Union

ed. editor (plural eds.)

EDP electronic data processing

EEC European Economic Community (now EC, EU)

EEG electroencephalogram; electroencephalograph

EES European Exchange System

EET Eastern European Time

EFL English as a Foreign Language

EFTA European Free Trade Association

EFTPOS electronic funds transfer at point of sale

e.g. *exempli gratia* (Latin 'for the sake of example'); for example

EIB European Investment Bank

ELT English language teaching

EMF electromagnetic field; European Monetary Fund

emf electromotive force

EMI Electrical and Musical Industries; electromagnetic interference

EMS European Monetary System

EMU Economic and Monetary Union; European Monetary Union

e.m.u. electromagnetic unit

ENT ear, nose, and throat

EOC Equal Opportunities Commission

EPA European Productivity Agency

EPSRC Education and Physical Sciences Research Council

ERM exchange rate mechanism

ESA European Space Agency

ESL English as a Second Language

ESP extrasensory perception

EST electric shock treatment; electroshock therapy

est. estimate(d); established

ETA estimated time of arrival

et al. *et alii* (Latin 'and others')

etc. *et cetera* (Latin 'and the rest')

ETD estimated time of departure

EU European Union

Euratom European Atomic Energy Community

EV electron volt

ex lib. *ex libris* (Latin 'from the library of')

F

F Fahrenheit; farad

f. female; folio (plural ff.), and following (page)

FA Football Association

FAA Federal Aviation Administration (US); Fleet Air Arm

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization (of the UN)

f.a.o. for the attention of

FAQ frequently asked question

FBA Fellow of the British Academy

FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

FCO Foreign and Commonwealth Office

FDA Food and Drug Administration (US)

fem. feminine

ff. folios; and following (pages)

FIFA Fédération internationale de football association (French, International Federation of Association Football)

fig. figure

fl. *floruit* (Latin 'he/she flourished')

fl oz fluid ounce

FM frequency modulation

fol. following

FORTRAN formula translation (computing language)

FPA Family Planning Association

FRS Fellow of the Royal Society

FST flatter, squarer (television) tube

FT Financial Times

ft foot, feet

FTSE Financial Times Stock Exchange (Index of Shares)

FWD or 4WD four-wheel drive

f.y.i. for your information

G

G gauss

g gram

G7 Group of Seven (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, and the USA)

gal gallon

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Gb gigabyte

GBH grievous bodily harm

GC George Cross

GCHQ Government Communications Headquarters

GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education

GDP gross domestic product

GEC General Electric Company

gen. genitive

ger. gerund

GeV gigavolts (one billion electric volts)

GHQ general headquarters

GHz gigahertz (one billion hertz)

GI government issue (US, a common soldier)

GIGO garbage in, garbage out (computing)

GM George Medal

GMT Greenwich mean time

GNP gross national product

GP general (medical) practitioner

GPO General Post Office

gr grain

GUI graphical user interface (computing)

H

H henry

ha hectare

HF high frequency

HGV heavy goods vehicle

HIV human immunodeficiency virus

HM Her (His) Majesty

HMS Her (His) Majesty's Ship; Her (His) Majesty's Service

HMSO Her (His) Majesty's Stationery Office

HMV His Master's Voice (record company)

Hon. Honourable

HP hire purchase

hp horsepower

HQ headquarters

hr hour

HRH Her/His Royal Highness

HRT hormone replacement therapy

HST high-speed train

ht. or hgt. height

HUGO Human Genome Organization

HV or h.v. high velocity; high voltage

HWM high-water mark

Hz hertz

I

I 1 (Roman numeral)

ibid. *ibidem* (Latin 'in the same place', i.e. in a book)

IBM International Business Machines

IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank)

ICBM intercontinental ballistic missile

ICI Imperial Chemical Industries

ICL International Computers Ltd

id. *idem* (Latin 'the same')

ID identification

IDA International Development Association

IDL International Date Line

IDP International Driving Permit

i.e. *id est* (Latin 'that is')

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

IGA International Geographical Association

IKBS intelligent knowledge-based system (computing)

ILO International Labour Organization

ill., *illus.*, or *illustr.* illustrated; illustration

ILS instrument landing system

IMF International Monetary Fund

imp. important

in or in. inch

Inc. Incorporated (US); including

INF intermediate nuclear forces

Interpol International Criminal Police Organization

IOC International Olympic Committee

IOU I owe you

IQ intelligence quotient

IR infrared radiation; information retrieval; Inland Revenue

IRA Irish Republican Army

IRO Inland Revenue Office

ISBN International Standard Book Number

ISDN Integrated Services Digital Network

ISSN International Standard Serial Number

IT information technology

ITA Independent Television Authority

ITC Independent Television Commission

ITU intensive therapy unit; International Telecommunication Union

IUD intrauterine device

IUPAC International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

IVF in vitro fertilization

IWW Industrial Workers of the World

J or j joule

JANET Joint Academic Network (computing)

jct. or jctn. junction

JD Juris Doctor (Doctor of Law)

Jr. junior

JP Justice of the Peace

K

K kelvin; kilobyte; 1000

k karat

KB or Kb kilobyte; Knight Bachelor

kc kilocycle

kcal kilocalorie

KG Knight of (the Order of) the Garter

kg kilogram

KGB *Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopanosti* (Russian 'Committee of State Security')

KKK Ku Klux Klan

kl kilolitre

km kilometre

KO knockout

kph or km/h kilometres per hour

kV kilovolt

kW kilowatt

kWh kilowatt-hour

KWIC key word in context

L

L Roman numeral for 50

l litre

l. line (plural ll.)

L.A. Los Angeles

Landsat land satellite

lat. latitude

lb pound (Latin *libra*)

lb-ft pound-foot

LC Library of Congress (US)

l.c. in typography, lower case, or small letters, as opposed to capital letters

LCD liquid crystal display; lowest or least common denominator

LEA local education authority

LF low frequency

Lib. Liberal

lib. library

LMS local management of schools

loc. cit. *loco citato* (Latin 'at the place cited')

log logarithm

long. longitude

LP long-playing (record)

LSD lysergic acid diethylamide

Ltd. Limited

LW long wave

LWM low-water mark

M

M Roman numeral for 1,000

m metre

m. male; married

MA Master of Arts

masc. masculine

MASH mobile army surgical hospital

max. maximum

MB or Mb megabyte

MBA Master of Business Administration

MBE Member of (the Order of) the British Empire

MBO management buyout

MC master of ceremonies; Military Cross

MCC Marylebone Cricket Club

MCP male chauvinist pig

MD Doctor of Medicine; muscular dystrophy; managing director

mdn. median

MDR minimum daily requirement

ME myalgic encephalomyelitis; mechanical engineer; Middle English

M Ed Master of Education

MEP Member of the European Parliament

Messrs. *messieurs* (French 'sirs' or 'gentlemen')

MeV mega-electronvolt

MFA Master of Fine Arts

mfd. manufactured

mfg. manufacturing

mg milligram

Mgr. manager; *Monsignor* (in the Roman Catholic Church)

MHz megahertz

mi mile

MIDI Musical Instrument Digital Interface

min. minimum; minute

MIRAS mortgage interest relief at source

mks metre-kilogram-second

ml millilitre

MLR minimum lending rate

mm millimetre

MMR measles, mumps, rubella (vaccine)

MO medical officer

MoD Ministry of Defence

modem modulator/demodulator (a device for transmitting computer data over telephone lines)

MOMA Museum of Modern Art

MORI Market and Opinion Research Institute

mp melting point

MP Member of Parliament; military policeman

mpg miles per gallon

mph miles per hour

MPhil Master of Philosophy

Mr Mister, title given to a man

MRBM medium-range ballistic missile

Mrs Mistress, title given to a married woman

MS manuscript (plural MSS); Master of Surgery; multiple sclerosis

Ms Miss or Mrs, title given to a woman regardless of marital status

MSc Master of Science

MTV Music Television, a subscription station broadcasting rock music

MU monetary unit

mV millivolt

MV megavolt

MW megawatt

mW milliwatt

N

N north; newton

n. noun

n/a or **n.a.** not applicable; not available

NAAFI Navy Army and Air Force Institutes (forces catering service)

NAFTA North American Free Trade Agreement

NAO National Audit Office

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration (US)

NATO or **Nato** North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NB *nota bene* (Latin 'note well')

NBA Net Book Agreement

NBC National Broadcasting Company

NCP National Car Parks

NCT National Childbirth Trust

NDE near-death experience

NEB National Enterprise Board; New English Bible

NEC National Exhibition Centre

NEDC National Economic Development Council

NICAM near-instantaneous companded (compressed and expanded) audio multiplex, a system of digital stereo sound for video

NIMBY not in my back yard

NIREX Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive

no. number

NOP National Opinion Poll

NRA National Rivers Authority

NSB National Savings Bank

NSPCA National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

NSPCC National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

NT New Testament; National Theatre; National Trust

NTP normal temperature and pressure

NZ New Zealand

O

o/a on account

OAPEC Organization of Arab Petroleum-Exporting Countries

OAS Organization of American States

OAU Organization of African Unity

ob. *obit* (Latin 'he/she died')

OBE Officer of (the Order of) the British Empire

OCD obsessive compulsive disorder

OCR optical character reader; optical character recognition

OD officer of the day; overdose; overdrawn

OE Old English

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OED Oxford English Dictionary

OEM original equipment manufacturer

OFFER Office of Electricity Regulation (regulatory body)

Ofgas Office of Gas Supply (regulatory body)

Oflot Office of the National Lottery (regulatory body)

Ofrail Office of the Railway Regulator (regulatory body)

Ofsted Office for Standards in Education (regulatory body)

OFT Office of Fair Trading

Oftel Office of Telecommunications (regulatory body)

Ofwat Office of Water Services (regulatory body)

OHMS On Her (His) Majesty's Service

o.k.a. or o/k/a otherwise known as

OM Order of Merit

op. cit. *opere citato* (Latin 'in the work cited')

OPEC Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries

OT Old Testament

oz ounce

P

p. page (plural pp.)

p.a. *per annum* (Latin 'yearly')

PA personal assistant; public address (system)

PAC Pan African Congress

P/L or P & L profit and loss

P & P postage and packing

Pap test Papanicolaou (gynaecological or smear) test

part. participle

PAYE pay as you earn (system of tax collection)

PBX private branch exchange

PC personal computer; political correctness or politically correct; Police Constable; Privy Councillor; Peace Corps

pc per cent

PCB polychlorinated biphenyl; printed circuit board

PCP phencyclohexyl-piperidine (also known as angel dust)

PEP personal equity plan

per pro or p.p. or pp *per procurationem* (Latin 'by the agency of'); by proxy

pH potential of hydrogen ions, a measure of acidity or alkalinity

PhD Doctor of Philosophy

PIN personal identification number

PLA Port of London Authority

plc public limited company

PLO Palestine Liberation Organization

PLR public lending right (system of royalties paid on borrowed books)

plur. plural

PM prime minister

p.m. *post meridiem* (Latin 'after noon')

PO Post Office; petty officer

POS point of sale

POSSLQ person of the opposite sex sharing living quarters

POW prisoner of war

pp see per pro

ppm parts per million

PPS Parliamentary Private Secretary

PR public relations; proportional representation

pref. prefix

PRO Public Record Office; public relations officer

pro tem. *pro tempore* (Latin 'for the time being')

PS *post scriptum* (Latin 'after writing')

PSBR public sector borrowing requirement

pt part; pint

PTA Parent-Teacher Association

PTO please turn over

PVC polyvinyl chloride, a type of plastic

Q

QC Queen's Counsel

QED *quod erat demonstrandum* (Latin 'which was to be proved')

qt quart

quango quasi-autonomous non-governmental organization

q.v. *quod vide* (Latin 'which see')

R

R Roentgen

r. reigned

RAC Royal Automobile Club

RADA Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

RAF Royal Air Force

RAM random access memory

R & B rhythm and blues

R & R rescue and resuscitation; rest and recreation or rehabilitation; rock and roll

RC Red Cross; Roman Catholic

RCU remote control unit

R & D research and development

Rd. road

RDS radio data system

re regarding (Latin 'with regard to')

REM rapid eye movement (in dreaming)

Rev. or Revd Reverend, a title for clergy

RFC Rugby Football Club

RHA Regional Health Authority

RIP *requiescat (requiescant) in pace* (Latin 'may he/she (they) rest in peace')

RN Registered Nurse

RNA ribonucleic acid

RNIB Royal National Institute for the Blind

RNID Royal National Institute for the Deaf

RNLI Royal National Lifeboat Institution

RoSPA Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

RPI retail price index

rpm revolutions per minute

RPV remotely piloted vehicle (a flying TV camera for military use)

RRP recommended retail price

RSFSR Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

RSI repetitive strain injury

RSJ rolled-steel joist (in building)

RSV Revised Standard Version (of the Bible)

RSVP *répondez s'il vous plaît* (French 'please reply')

RUC Royal Ulster Constabulary

RV Revised Version (of the Bible)

S

S south

SAD seasonal affective disorder (depression associated with a time of year)

SAE or s.a.e. self-addressed envelope

SALT Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (or Treaty)

SAS Special Air Service

SAT Standard Assessment Task

SAYE save as you earn (savings scheme)

sc. *scilicet* (Latin 'let it be understood')

sci-fi science fiction

SCR senior common room (in a college or university)

SDI Strategic Defense Initiative (popularly known as 'Star Wars')

SEAO Stock Exchange Automated Quotations

SEATO Southeast Asia Treaty Organization

sec. or s. second (a unit of time)

seq. *sequentes* (Latin 'the following')

SHF superhigh frequency

SI *Système International [d'Unités]* (French 'International System [of Metric Units]')

SIDS sudden infant death syndrome

sin sine

sing. singular

SLBM submarine-launched ballistic missile

SLR single-lens reflex (camera)

SNP Scottish National Party

SOS internationally recognized distress signal, using letters of the Morse code (···-----)

spec. special; species; specification(s)

sq square

Sr senior; *señor*

SS steamship; *Schutzstaffel* (Nazi elite guard)

SSRC Social Sciences Research Council

St. Saint; Street

START Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (or Treaty)

STD sexually transmitted disease; subscriber trunk dialling

STP standard temperature and pressure

suff. suffix

SWOT strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (in business)

T

t or tn ton or tonne

TA Territorial Army

tal. qual. *talis qualis* (Latin 'just as they come')

tan tangent

TASM tactical air-to-surface missile

Tass *Telegrafnoye Agentstvo Sovyetskovo Soyuz* (Soviet news agency)

TB tuberculosis

t.b.a. to be advised; to be agreed; to be announced

t.b.d. to be determined

TDD Telecommunications Device for the Deaf

TEFL teaching English as a foreign language

tel. telephone

temp. temperature; temporary

TESL teaching English as a second language

TESOL teaching English to speakers of other languages

TGIF thank God it's Friday

TGV train à grand vitesse (French high-speed train)

TLS Times Literary Supplement

TM trademark; transcendental meditation

TNT trinitrotoluene; trinitrotoluol

TSB Trustee Savings Bank

TUC Trades Union Congress

U

u.c. in typography, upper case, or capital letters

UCAS Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

UEFA Union of European Football Associations

UFO unidentified flying object

UHF ultrahigh frequency

UHV ultrahigh voltage

UK United Kingdom

UN United Nations

UNCTAD United Nations Commission on Trade and Development

UNEP United Nations Environmental Program

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (now known as United Nations Children's Fund)

UP United Press (news agency)

US United States

USA United States of America

USAF United States Air Force

USS United States Ship

USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

UV ultraviolet

V

V 5 (Roman numeral)

v velocity; volt

v. or vb. verb

v. or vs. versus

V & A Victoria and Albert Museum

VAT value-added tax

VC Victoria Cross

VCR video cassette recorder

VD venereal disease

VDT visual or video display terminal

VDU visual display unit

VHF very high frequency

v.i. verb intransitive

VIP very important person

viz. *videlicet* (Latin 'that is to say'); namely

VLf very low frequency

voc. vocative

vol. volume

VSO Voluntary Service Overseas

VSTOL vertical short takeoff and landing

v.t. verb transitive

W

W west; watt

WASP White Anglo-Saxon Protestant

WC or w.c. water closet

WCC World Council of Churches

WEA Workers' Educational Association

WHO World Health Organization

WI Women's Institute

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization

w.p.m. words per minute

WRAC Women's Royal Army Corps

WRAF Women's Royal Air Force

WRNS Women's Royal Naval Service

wt. weight

WWF World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund)

WWW World Wide Web

WYSIWYG what you see is what you get (computing)

X

X 10 (Roman numeral); a person or thing unknown

x in mathematics, an unknown quantity

Y

yd yard

YMCA Young Men's Christian Association

YTS Youth Training Scheme

YWCA Young Women's Christian Association

Z

Z impedance (electricity and magnetism)