

**ACRONYMS &
INITIALISMS
DICTIONARY**

SECOND EDITION

ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS DICTIONARY

Second Edition

*A Guide to Alphabetic Designations, Contractions,
Acronyms, Initialisms, and Similar Condensed Appellations*

Covering: Aerospace, Associations, Biochemistry, Business and Trade,
Domestic and International Affairs, Education, Electronics, Genetics, Govern-
ment, Labor, Medicine, Military, Pharmacy, Physiology, Politics, Religion,
Science, Societies, Sports, Technical Drawings and Specifications,
Transportation, and Other Fields.

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Second Edition—\$15
(First Edition Titled, Acronyms Dictionary)

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Eric Partridge, author of A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English; A Dictionary of Abbreviations, with Special Attention to War-Time Abbreviations; and other books

In addition, many suggestions concerning individual terms to be included or subjects to be covered have been received from individual users, and have been most helpful. The editors invite all such comments and suggestions, and will make every effort to incorporate them in the third edition.

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EDITORS' PREFACE

It is four years since the first edition of the ACRONYMS DICTIONARY appeared, and high time for a new one because those years have been particularly eventful.

In that period, LASERS and MASERS began to spark creative imaginations. JFK played his shockingly brief role as President and was succeeded by LBJ. COMSAT (Communications Satellite Corporation) was chartered to develop the potential of TELSTAR. New miracle drugs and chemicals with lengthy compound names became widely known, and were speedily tagged with short, memorable acronyms, such as DNA for genetics' Deoxyribonucleic Acid, and LSD (sometimes, LSD 25) for the hallucinatory drug, Lysergic Acid Diethylamine Tartrate.

Breakneck progress in electronics and space research brought new concepts, new projects, new instruments and weapons. It also brought new acronyms to save precious inches of newsprint and precious seconds of broadcast time, to serve as cloaks of military secrecy, and as spotlights on products, ideas, and programs which the public is expected to support, admire, or purchase.

Acronyms Idea Not New

These and other developments, however, merely extend an age-old practice, for acronyms have been doing this kind of job for centuries. Roman soldiers carried standards engraved with the letters SPQR, from the Latin for Senate and People of Rome. They nailed a sign lettered INRI onto a cross in Judea.

The idea of using initials and telescope words (COMSAT is an example of the latter) to say things faster or more dramatically came early to America, also, but the word acronym (from the Greek akros, tip, and onyma, name) was not coined until 1943.

Seventeen years later the ACRONYMS DICTIONARY (believed to be the first book composed of this type of material) was published, and the subject attracted increased importance and interest. The book speedily won a place in Winchell's GUIDE TO REFERENCE BOOKS (Fourth Supplement), and LIBRARY JOURNAL included the title in its annual roster of Best Reference Books.

But no dictionary can be the final word in a field which grows as rapidly as acronyms, and it has always been the publisher's intention to bring out a revised and updated edition of the ACRONYMS DICTIONARY as soon as sufficient new material could be compiled. This edition has been delayed for a longer time than anticipated, but the delay has been advantageous in at least one respect: It allowed more time for numerous suggestions to be received from users of the first edition, and gave the editors four years in which to gather an unprecedented, unequaled store of acronyms and initialisms for the second edition.

Thanks to users' suggestions and to the lengthy research period, the new book is considerably thicker and infinitely more valuable than its predecessor. It has about 45,000 entries and nearly 775 pages, as opposed to 12,000 entries and 211 in the first edition.

Expansion Results from Two Causes

This nearly four-fold increase in size comes primarily from two causes:

- 1) Gaps have been filled and new words have been added to expand considerably the coverage provided in the previous edition for military, governmental, aerospace, labor, data processing, and voluntary association names and terminology.
- 2) Thousands of entries have been added, covering such fields as genetics, biochemistry, technical specifications, education, politics, railroading, domestic affairs, religion, sports, medicine, international commerce, and many other areas which did not receive major attention in the first edition.

Many medical terms, for example, have been added--both scientific and not-so-scientific. Among the former are LOP, an initialism for Left Occiput Posterior, a type of foetal position, and AC, the abbreviation of the Latin for "before meals," a term often encountered in doctors' prescriptions. Among the less scientific are such terms as TLC, a prescription much easier for the patient to take than many--it means Tender, Loving Care--and DOA, for Dead On Arrival.

Designations for stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange have been added for the convenience of investment-minded readers. These include AAC (American Cement Corporation) and DCS (Distillers Corporation--Seagrams Ltd.), but there are many others, such as ABT (Abbott Laboratories), which are more nearly symbols than initialisms or acronyms.

Some stocks have picked up nicknames, often based on verbalizations of their initials or trading symbols, and these are also mentioned; they include "Pizza" for Pacific International Express (NYSE symbol: PIE), and "Alice" for Allis Chalmers.

Military terms, virtually a backbone of the first edition, have been augmented. The user will find many additional modern terms, plus more old standbys such as D&D (Drunk and Disorderly), DFR (Dropped From Rolls), and DI (Drill Instructor--and incidentally the title of a movie about the Marines). From such sources as a dictionary of wartime abbreviations, compiled by Eric Partridge, the editors have taken by permission numerous colorful terms, typified by CMAR (the

reversed initials of Royal Army Medical Corps), meaning Can't Manage a Rifle. And the user of this new edition can perhaps feel more secure by knowing that in addition to DEWLINE the country is now protected by AAEW (Atlantic Airborne Early Warning).

ADCOMSUBORDCOMPHIBSPAC

There's even a bravura specimen all but the most trusting readers will want to look up to convince themselves it is real. It is ADCOMSUBORDCOMPHIBSPAC (possibly the longest term in the book), which is the Navy's short-form name for Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, Subordinate Command.

Terms which are striking for reasons other than their length are those of the type represented by WAVES, ACTION, CARE, and JOBS, all of which are believed to have been constructed to convey a certain impression for a certain purpose, then fleshed out with more-or-less appropriate words which fit the catchy acronyms. Undoubtedly created the same way were ZIP and ABCD, Post Office Department designations for Zone Improvement Plan and Accelerated Business Collection and Delivery.

Several Thousand Foreign Terms Included

By far the largest proportion of terms in the Acronyms and Initialisms Dictionary is made up of items which are specifically identified with the United States. Foreign terms are assuming an increasing importance, however, because of constantly closer association--politically, economically, and socially--between the United States and the rest of the world. The editors have therefore attempted to include as many as possible of the terms most likely to be encountered by the businessman, government official, student of political affairs, or the citizen who wishes to be informed.

As a result, this edition contains in the aggregate several thousand acronyms and initialisms based on Russian, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, and other major languages. Together, they represent--as do the terms based on English phrases and names--a source which is probably not duplicated anywhere else.

For example, the acronyms of international association names have been included because, since they are international, their activities are presumed to include Americans. Many terms, of course, have a military origin, and since World War II, which spawned so many acronyms, was the joint concern of several nations, many military terms from Great Britain and other countries appear for the first time in this edition. Foreign political parties, and their often-related labor unions, are also included, since the names and acronyms of such organizations are commonly encountered by the reader of magazines and daily newspapers in the United States.

Sweden is represented by, among others, AG (Company), while recent events in Algeria are recalled by OAS (Organisation de l'Armee Secrete). French terms are prevalent among international organizations because of the status French still enjoys as a major language of diplomacy. Examples are CGT (Confederation Generale de Travail), AATNU (Administration de l'Assistance Technique des Nations Unies), and AEP (Agence Europeene de Productivite).

Both DNB and ADN are listed. One is West Germany's news agency, Deutsche

Nachrichtenbüro; the other is Allgemeine Deutsche Nachrichtendienst, its counterpart in the DDR (Deutsche Demokratische Republik). Russia is represented by, for example, AD and ADD, initialisms for the Russian words meaning Air Division and Strategic Bombing Force, and by acronyms for the Soviet Republic's various secret police groups.

Foreign car watchers are reminded that Germany's DKW is spelled out as Das Kleine Wunder (The Little Wonder), while American railroad car watchers can find that PAE and GHH are the AAR (Association of American Railroads) symbols for cars of the Peoria & Eastern Railroad and the Galveston, Houston & Henderson Railroad.

Finally, the new edition contains many more examples of slang terms than the previous volume. Among items included for the first time in this edition are such oddments as AD, a drug addict, and DVOT and SOS, both disparaging GI terms for unpopular items of Army cuisine.

Research Shows Comprehensive Guide Needed

Colorful, startling, interesting though the foregoing examples are, they are not included in the AID for those reasons alone. Besides being amusing, it is also true that identification or explanation of each of the terms in this volume may be of importance to the understanding of a modern reader, just as all the terms in an unabridged dictionary--any one of which might apparently be omitted without harm--are also each of potential importance.

Ready identification and comprehension of such terms as AE, SNCC, CORE, RNA, COIN, and thousands of others are necessary to understand newspapers and other common reading materials. A recent study at the University of Florida, however, indicated that even acronyms encountered every day by the average reader are often not widely understood, pointing up the need for a guide to common terms as well as the more exotic.

In the Florida survey, resulting from a journalism seminar which raised the question of how well newspaper readers understand the many initials they encounter, more than three hundred individuals were interviewed. They were confronted with sample initialisms, both alone and in the context of the headlines, and researchers concluded that the terms register with surprisingly small numbers of people. For example, only eight per cent recognized GAO.

Accordingly, it seemed desirable for the editors to cast their nets as widely as possible in securing material for the new edition, and that they have done. They hope that this revised and enlarged version of the popular first edition will be equally valuable.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Determining the subject areas to be covered in such a book as this is not nearly so difficult, however, as deciding on the type of terms to be selected from each field. In other words, "Where should the line be drawn?"

Obviously, since this book is not intended to cover outright abbreviations of

the lb. for pound type, many common abbreviations are not eligible for inclusion. Similarly, contractions of single words arrived at by dropping letters have generally been regarded as unsuitable, unless the net result has been a term which is easily pronounced or is likely to be verbalized letter-by-letter (such as EEG, for Electroencephalogram).

Acronyms are, strictly speaking, words made from the tips of other words--but the question immediately arises, "How large a tip?" Some students of language hold out for syllables, and accept only such terms as ARBOR, from the virological term, Arthropod Borne, or BASEC, for Base Section, a military term. Some others might go one step further and accept terms such as BAFCOM, Basic Armed Forces Communication (Plan), or BART, Brooklyn Arry Terminal.

One of the most common usages of acronym-like terms, however, is in the shortening of governmental, organizational, technical and other designations by the use of initial letter "tips" only of words in these designations. AID (Agency for International Development), SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference), PC (Pease Corps), and thousands of similar terms are examples of this practice. Some refer to such terms, not as acronyms, but as initialisms or "abecedisms."

Which of these points of view is linguistically correct is not important here, and, quite possibly, there is no single correct way of forming what is known today as an acronym. The essential point which concerned the editors was that no user of the book should be disappointed because the term for which he sought an explanation was omitted on a technicality. It was decided, therefore, to include in this edition of AID all terms of the types described above, whether they met one or another of the definitions of acronym or not, so long as they might be thought to be an acronymic term when encountered in reading or conversation.

Should Shortened Terms be Pronounced?

On this point, the editors suggest that you let your conscience--and whatever common usage you know of--be your guide. Pronunciation is almost entirely a matter of choice. Some people pronounce acronyms, whenever possible, as if they were complete words. Others prefer to rattle off the individual letters. Telescope words are almost invariably pronounced as words--and, indeed, very likely have come into being because they make conversationally manageable terms which are very cumbersome when used in full. NAWAS (the National Warning System of Civil Defense) and GESTAPO (from Geheime Staats Polizei) are examples of such terms.

Occasionally, an initialism will acquire an unofficial stray letter or sound which never appears in print, but which renders the term pronounceable. SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee), for example, is widely pronounced, "Snick." For such cases as this, discreet and careful listening are essential!

To Capitalize or Not to Capitalize?

It is comparatively rare, and is becoming even less common, for initialisms to be written any way other than in all capital letters, without periods. There are occasional exceptions, especially in scientific or technical notation (names of chemical elements, for example), but it appears that the overwhelming tendency is toward the use of all capitals and the omission of all periods. The capitalization of

initialisms for common nouns, such as TV for Television, is typical.

The editors have speculated on the reasons for the tendency to use all capitals, without periods, and found no single answer. It seems significant, however, that the equipment which is more and more being used for records and/or for communication--such as teletypes, computer print-out units, punched cards, etc.--almost invariably has only upper case letters, and, except for the teletype, a relatively limited capacity for characters, punctuation, and spacing.

Therefore, the practice adopted in the first edition of writing acronyms uniformly in capitals and without periods or space between letters has been, in general, followed for the second edition. The expansion of the scope of the second edition, however, has resulted in the use of certain types of material not covered in the first edition, to which the general rule could not logically be applied.

Unlike certain other types of acronyms which might be written in various ways, academic degrees, for example, often include both capital and lower case letters; the degree of Bachelor of Science may be abbreviated as BS, but it is also often used as B Sc, and it would not have been appropriate to apply the "all capital" rule to material of this type. Also, although conjunctions, prepositions, and articles are usually ignored in the formation of an initialism, they are occasionally found in such instances as C of C and B of B for Chamber of Commerce and Bureau of the Budget, respectively; obviously, these could not be written COFC or BOFB.

Arrangement of Terms

Terms are arranged in alphabetical order, according to the acronym. If the same acronym has more than one meaning, the various meanings are arranged alphabetically. Spacing within the term does not affect alphabetizing, and lower-case letters occurring in an acronym do not affect its alphabetical position, except that a combination of capitals and small letters comes before a combination of the same letters written all in capital letters. Prepositions and articles, in the few cases where they occur as part of acronyms, are considered in alphabetizing.

Acronyms and initialisms involving the same letters occur in a variety of forms, and this arbitrary order was established for the various possible arrangements:

Straight forms of the acronym	BS
Hyphenated forms of the acronym	B-S
Forms of the acronym using the diagonal	B/S
Forms of the acronym with ampersand or other symbols	B&S

With respect to arrangement of terms and their meanings, it should be kept in mind that the point of view of the book, or the point of reference for the user, is an acronym rather than its meaning. Therefore, it is deliberate when there are two successive listings of, for example, the International Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses Association under slightly different initialisms, both of which were encountered in one or another of the various sources used to compile this dictionary.



- A..... Absolute (Temperature in fahrenheit degrees)
- A..... Abstracts
- A..... Abundant (With respect to occurrence of species)
- A..... Adjective
- A..... Alternate (Approach and landing charts) (Aviation)
- A..... Altitude Difference (Navigation)
- A..... Ampere
- A..... Amplification
- A..... Amplitude (Physics)
- A..... Anaconda Company (NYSE symbol)
- A..... Androecium (Botany)
- A..... Angstrom Unit (of light)
- A..... Anode (Technical drawings)
- A..... Answer (In transcripts)
- A..... Anterior
- A..... Arctic (Air mass) (Meteorological symbol)
- A..... Are (A unit of area in the metric system)
- A..... Area
- A..... Argon (Chemical element)
- A..... Army
- A..... Assists (in putting a man out) (Baseball)
- A..... Associate (In an Academic Degree)
- A..... Attack (Men's lacrosse position)
- A..... Augmentation (Music)
- A..... Hail (Meteorological symbol)
- A (Bomb)..... Atom Bomb
- A1..... First Class or First Quality
 section (Air Force)
- A-1..... Personnel Section of an Air Staff; also, officer in charge of this
 section (Air Force)
- A-2..... Intelligence Section of an Air Staff; also, officer in charge of this
- A-3..... Operations and Training Section of an Air Staff; also, officer in charge
 of this section (Air Force)
- A-4..... Materiel and Supply Section of an Air Staff; also, officer in charge
 of this section (Air Force)
- A/1C..... Airman First Class
- A/2C..... Airman Second Class
- A/3C..... Airman Third Class
- 1A..... Man available for military service (Selective Service Class)
- 2A..... Selective Service classification for a man deferred or deferrable from
 military service because of essential civilian activity (supporting the
 national health, safety, or interest).
- 2A-F..... Man physically disqualified for military service but engaged in work
 in the national health, safety, or interest (Selective Service Class)