

# Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary

## 1986-87

TENTH EDITION

Julie E. Towell and  
Helen E. Sheppard, Editors

VOLUME 1

PART 3: P-Z

HQ JFK ZIP UNICEF CIA  
NASA COD OSHA IRA  
COLA RADAR PC  
ERA ETC TGIF LASER  
EPA NAACP  
BLT RAM E.T.  
SCUBA SALT ROM FBI  
PBS OPEC DNA CD  
BBC SONAR ASAP NYSE  
NATO AMEX

# **Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary**

*A Guide to More Than 340,000 Acronyms, Initialisms, Abbreviations,  
Contractions, Alphabetic Symbols, and Similar Condensed Appellations*

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

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and  
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*Editors*

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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 that is widely being used today for records and/or for communication—such as Teletypes, computer printout units, punched cards, etc.—had, in its early days of development, only uppercase letters, and, except for the Teletype, a relatively limited capacity for characters, punctuation, and spacing.

The general rule of all-capital letters could not logically be applied to all entries, however. Unlike certain other types of terms that might be written in various ways, academic degrees, for example, often include both capital and lowercase letters. The degree of Bachelor of Science may be abbreviated BS, but it is also often expressed as B Sc, and it would not have been appropriate to apply the “all capital” rule to material of this type. “T” indicates “tablespoon” to a cook, and its lowercase form, “t,” indicates “teaspoon”—the difference could be crucial in any recipe. 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 for Chamber of Commerce, which would rarely be written as COFC.

Another important exception is made with abbreviations of periodical titles. Those made up of a *series* of abbreviations are traditionally written in upper- and lowercase: Econ Comput Econ Cybern Stud Res (Economic Computation and Economic Cybernetics Studies and Research). The often extraordinary length of such “short” forms would be somewhat overwhelming if set in full capitals: ECON COMPUT ECON CYBERN STUD RES.

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Finally, the use of uppercase or lowercase letters in alphabetical *codes*, such as library symbols, MARC codes, and others, is frequently significant. These terms have therefore been picked up as given by the authoritative source.

## Updating and Categorizing

As was indicated in the Preface, updating of entries is a continuing effort. Terms are updated as changes come to our attention, but obviously not all entries in the book can be kept constantly current.

Where possible, and if not already implied in the entry itself, a parenthetical category or identifier follows many terms. Examples are [*World War II*], [*Library of Congress*], [*Air Force*], and so forth. The purpose is to put as many entries as possible into some kind of context, since *A/AD* entries come from hundreds of different subject areas. These added identifiers may indicate that the entry is connected with or originated by the given category, or it may simply be an indication that the term is abbreviated in that particular way by the organization, group, or categorization used.

The identifier following an entry—such as [*FAA*] or [*Veterans Administration*—is usually the one current when the term was picked up for *A/AD*. The agency or organization used as an identifier may since have been altered in structure or dissolved; and while the entry for the agency itself may indicate the change, the

identifiers in other related terms will not necessarily be altered. For example, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) became the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 1979. The entry for HEW indicates this change:

**HEW** ..... Department of Health, Education, and Welfare . . . [Later, HHS]

There are, however, many other entries in the dictionary that are followed by the designation [HEW]. Some of these have been changed to indicate the term's ongoing connection with the new agency. Others retain their [HEW] category, since it cannot be presumed that all designations for departmental units, processes, etc., are currently used by the superseding agency.

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After this principal arrangement of terms will follow any forms of the entry using Arabic numerals. (Roman numerals sort as alphabets.) These numeric forms are, in turn, followed by pluralized forms (usually indicated by an apostrophe and lowercase "s" to emphasize that the "s" is not part of the initialism). Finally come entries in which a parenthetical explanatory word is an integral part of the term: A (Bomb), C (Section), D (Day), etc. For example:

Straight forms of the term: (including symbols, conjunctions and prepositions, etc.)	{	<b>MC</b> .....	Machine Console
		<b>M/C</b> .....	Main Chamber
		<b>MC</b> .....	Main Chute
		<b>MC</b> .....	Mantle Cavity
		<b>MC</b> .....	Mapping Camera
		<b>M of C</b> .....	Master of Commerce
		<b>MC</b> .....	Medical Center
		<b>Mc</b> .....	Megacycles
		<b>MC</b> .....	Midcourse
		<b>MC</b> .....	Mnemonic Code
		<b>M &amp; C</b> .....	Morphine and Cocaine
		<b>MC</b> .....	Motorcycle
		<b>MC</b> .....	Munitions Command
		<b>MC1</b> .....	Medal for Cycling, First Place
Forms of the term using Arabic numerals:	{	<b>M6C</b> .....	Most of Six Cargoes
		<b>MC's</b> .....	Military Characteristics
Pluralized forms of the term: (including plural numeric combinations)	{	<b>MC's</b> .....	Multiple Choices
		<b>2MC's</b> .....	Two MasterCard
Forms of the term using words:	{	<b>MC (Day)</b> .....	Metrickation Code Day

With respect to arrangement of terms and their meanings, it should be kept in mind that the point of reference for the user is the *abbreviation* rather than its meaning. Therefore, it is deliberate when there are two listings of, for example, the International Airline 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.

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**P-Z**

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**P-Z**



# P

P	Aircraft [Wind triangle problems]	P	Patron
P	Armour Pharmaceutical Co. [Research code symbol]	P	Pattern
P	Assistant in Private Practice [Chiropody] [British]	P	Pavilion
P	Asta Werke AG [Germany] [Research code symbol]	P	Pawn [Chess]
P	Bristol Laboratories [Research code symbol]	P	Pax [Peace] [Latin]
P	Dainippon Pharmaceutical Co. [Japan] [Research code symbol]	P	Pay
P	Departure	P	Paymaster [Military]
P	Farbenfabriken Bayer [Germany] [Research code symbol]	P	Pazmaveb [A publication]
P	Farmitalia [Italy] [Research code symbol]	P	Peak
P	Faulty Punctuation [Used in correcting manuscripts, etc.]	P	Peat
P	Force of Concentrated Load	P	Pebbles [Quality of the bottom] [Nautical charts]
P	Games [or Matches] Played [Sports statistics]	P	Pectoral [Anatomy]
P	Hole P-Type Semiconductor Material	P	Peculiar [Astronomy]
P	Lepetit [Italy] [Research code symbol]	P	Pen [Sports]
P	Momentum [Symbol] [IUPAC]	P	Pence [Monetary unit in Great Britain]
P	Office of Personnel [Coast Guard]	P	Pencil Tube
P	On Probation [Navy] [British]	P	Pengo [Monetary unit in Hungary until 1946]
P	Orbital Period [of a comet] [In years]	P	Penicillin
P	P-Register [Data processing]	P	Pennia [Monetary unit in Finland]
P	Pacer	P	Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg, PA [Library symbol]
P	Pacific Coast Stock Exchange [Later, PSE]	P	Penny
P	Pacific Ocean [MARC geographic area code] [Library of Congress]	P	People
P	Pacific Standard Time	P	Per
P	Packed Lunches [School meals] [British]	P	Percentile
P	Paddington Railway Station	P	Perceptual
P	Page	P	Perch
P	Pain [Medicine]	P	Perchloroethylene [Also, TCE] [Dry cleaning]
P	Paired [for or against] [Votes in Congress]	P	Percussion
P	Paise [Monetary unit in India]	P	Pere [Father] [French]
P	Palace	P	Perforation
P	Palacio [A publication]	P	Performer
P	Palaestra [A publication]	P	Perianth
P	Pallet [Spacelab] [NASA]	P	Pericardium [Medicine]
P	Pamphlet	P	Perimeter
P	Pancuronium [A muscle relaxant]	P	Period
P	Papa [Phonetic alphabet]	P	Perishable
P	Papa [Pope] [Latin]	P	Permanent Stay [in hospital] [British]
P	Paper	P	Perpetuus [Uninterrupted] [Latin]
P	Papilla [Optic] [Medicine]	P	Perseverate [Psychology]
P	Para [Chemistry]	P	Persimmon
P	Para [Monetary unit in Yugoslavia]	P	Persistence [Medicine]
P	Paralegal Program [Association of Independent Colleges and Schools specialization code]	P	Person
P	Parallax	P	Personnel
P	Parallel	P	Perspectives [A publication]
P	Paramycin [A protozoan toxin]	P	Perstetur [Continue] [Pharmacy]
P	Parashah [Biblical and Judaic Acronyms]	P	Persuasion [Novel by Jane Austen]
P	Parental	P	Peseta [Monetary unit in Spain and Latin America]
P	Parish	P	Pesewa [Monetary unit in Ghana]
P	Parity [Atomic physics]	P	Peshet [Biblical and Judaic Acronyms]
P	Park	P	Peshitta [Biblical and Judaic Acronyms]
P	Parking Place [Traffic sign] [British]	P	Peso [Monetary unit in Spain and Latin America]
P	Parson	P	Peta [A prefix meaning multiplied by 10 <sup>15</sup> ] [SI symbol]
P	Part	P	Peter [Phonetic alphabet] [World War II]
P	Participle [Grammar]	P	Petrol [British Waterways Board sign]
P	Partim [In Part]	P	Peyote
P	Party	P	Pfizer, Inc. [Research code symbol]
P	Parve [or Pareve] [In food labeling, indicates food is kosher and can be used with either meat or dairy products]	P	Pharmacopoeia
P	Passed [Examination]	P	Phencyclidine [An anesthetic]
P	Passing Showers [Meteorology]	P	Phenolphthalein [Chemical indicator]
P	Past	P	Philadelphia [Pennsylvania] [Mint mark, when appearing on US coins]
P	Paste	P	Phillips Petroleum Co. [NYSE symbol]
P	Pasteurella [Genus of bacteria]	P	Philologus. Zeitschrift fuer Klassische Altertum [A publication]
P	Pastor	P	Philosophy [A publication]
P	Patchy [Decelerometer readings] [Aviation]	P	Phoenician [Biblical and Judaic Acronyms]
P	Patent	P	Phon [Unit of loudness level]
P	Pater [Father] [Latin]	P	Phosphate [One-letter symbol] [Biochemistry]
P	Patient	P	Phosphoric Residue [As substituent on nucleoside] [Biochemistry]
P	Patrol [Designation for all US military aircraft]	P	Phosphorus [Chemical element]