

Abbreviations Dictionary

Tenth Edition

Dean Stahl
Karen Kerchelich

Originated by Ralph De Sola

★ Abbreviations ★ Acronyms ★ Airlines and Airports ★ Appellations
★ Astronomical Terminology ★ Bafflegab Divulged (euphemisms
explained) ★ Birthstones ★ Chemical Elements ★ Citizen's-Band Call
Signs ★ Computer Terms ★ Contractions ★ Corrections Facilities
★ Criminalistic Terms ★ Currencies ★ Diacritical Marks ★ Dysphemistic
Place Names ★ Earthquake Data ★ Eponyms ★ Genealogical Terms
★ Geographical Equivalents ★ Government Agencies ★ Greek
Alphabet ★ Historical, Musical, and Mythological Data ★ International
Conversions ★ International Vehicle License Letters ★ Inventions and
Inventors ★ Medical Terms ★ Military Terms ★ National Parks
★ Nations and Capitals ★ Nicknames ★ Numbered Abbreviations
★ Numeration ★ Phobias ★ Ports of the World ★ Principles and Laws
★ Railroads ★ Roman Numerals ★ Russian Alphabet ★ Short Forms
★ Signs & Symbols ★ Slang ★ Steamship Lines ★ Superlatives ★ U.S.
Presidents & Vice Presidents ★ Weather Symbols (Beaufort Scale)
★ Wedding Anniversaries ★ Winds and Rains ★ Zip Coding ★ Zodiac

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CRC Press

Boca Raton London New York Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Stahl, Dean

Abbreviations dictionary / Dean Stahl, Karen Kerchelich; originated by Ralph De Sola. -- 10th ed.

p. cm.

Rev. ed. of: Abbreviations dictionary / Ralph De Sola. 9th ed. 1995.

ISBN 0-8493-9003-6 (alk. paper)

1. Abbreviations, English. 2. Signs and symbols--Dictionaries. 3. Acronyms. I. Kerchelich, Karen. II. De Sola, Ralph, 1908- Abbreviations dictionary. III. Title.

PE1693 .D4 2000

423'.1--dc21

00-058549
CIP

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International Standard Book Number 0-8493-9003-6

Library of Congress Card Number 00-058549

Printed in the United States of America 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Printed on acid-free paper

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This is the short and the long of it.

—*Shakespeare*

Preface

We live in a new century, a time when speed is king. High-tech devices increase the speed at which we can relay information. Abbreviations, nicknames, jargon, and other short forms save even more time, as well as space and effort. PDAs link to PCs. The Net has grown into data central (as well as shopping mall and grocery store). E-mail is faster than snail mail, cell phones are faster yet, and it's all done 24/7. This is not new, of course. Long-time and widespread use of certain abbreviations, such as *RSVP*, has made them better understood standing alone than spelled out. Certainly we are more comfortable saying *DNA* than *deoxyribonucleic acid*.

Yet the meanings of most abbreviations aren't apparent, a problem made worse by the abundance of abbreviations with a variety of meanings. The letter *a*, for example, stands for about 50 words or phrases; capital *A* stands for about 65. Generally, outside a limited circle of initiates, using abbreviations without first defining them causes confusion. Witness the result when someone who doesn't understand Spanish turns on the tap marked *C* in a shower in Acapulco, Buenos Aires, or Madrid. Hot water steams out instead of cold (no doubt followed by steamy, unabbreviated language).

The book in your hands will help end such confusion. This updated and expanded tenth edition of *Abbreviations Dictionary* contains abbreviations, acronyms, appellations, contractions, numbered abbreviations, and other short forms from computing, high technology, science, and a broad range of other fields, pastimes, groups, and, of course, government and the military—an abbreviation's best friends.

This edition contains many features not found in general reference works, such as Airlines and Airports of the World; Bafflegab Divulged; Emoticons; Eponyms, Nicknames and Geographical Names; Inventions and Inventors; Numbered Abbreviations; Phobias; Principles, Laws, Rules, Theories, and Doctrines; Signs and Symbols Frequently Used; and Superlatives. A turn through these pages reveals the identities of General Day After Tomorrow and the Father of Alligator Wrestling. You'll learn who the canaries of the sea are and the location of the Canadian Galapagos. You'll also find definitions of *chirospobia*, *Goldilocks economy*, and *smartsizing*. And if you've wondered what the latter is, here's a clue: It leads to involuntary unemployment.

Extensive reading and listening reveal new short forms daily in newspapers, magazines, and books; on the Internet; and in everyday speech. Rapid developments in technology, science, and medicine yield more. The perpetual creation of agencies, associations, bureaus, commissions, committees, groups, and the like—all with their own abbreviations, acronyms, and other short forms—means only one thing: The

end is not in sight. This expanded international tenth edition of *Abbreviations Dictionary* contains more abbreviations and other short forms than ever before.

Dean Stahl and Karen Kerchelich

Acknowledgments

Ralph De Sola began this book in the 1950s and continued to improve it into the ninth edition. Ralph's eclectic career ranged from promoting the new technology of microfilm to teaching English to Vietnamese immigrants, with forays into the fields of zoology and musicology. Books resulted from all these pursuits. As fellow word lovers, we fell into the habit of contributing to *Abbreviations Dictionary* quite naturally several editions ago. Thank you, Ralph, for trusting us to carry on.

Our thanks, too, go to everyone at CRC Press who worked on this edition. Special acknowledgment is due Acquisitions Editor Nora Konopka; we appreciate her unfailing professionalism and good humor.

The authors are most grateful to the following, who contributed entries to this tenth edition of *Abbreviations Dictionary*:

Michael Rose of Aberlady, East Lothian, Scotland, who did the research for *Militarisms: A Compendium of Abbreviations, Synonyms, Acronyms and Slang Words As Used by the Armed Forces of the World* (edited by John W. Mussell), provided a great number of military abbreviations from that book in exchange for material from previous editions of our *Abbreviations Dictionary*.

Margaret Stahl of Sun City, Arizona contributed hundreds of entries on a variety of subjects, including business and finance, agriculture, and medicine.

Laurence McGilvery of La Jolla, California provided numerous entries on books and libraries.

Our thanks for contributions and assistance also go to Debra Brammer, N D, of Seattle, Washington; Rebecca Fowler of Pahoia, Hawaii; David Gilbert of La Grande, Oregon; Louis Isquith, D D S, of Seattle; K E S Kirby of Thimphu, Bhutan; Larie Mallory of Copenhagen, Denmark; John Miller, D C, of Seattle; and Robert Stahl of Center Point, Texas.

Renewed thanks go to those who contributed to previous editions, including:

Arthur E E Ivory of Christchurch, New Zealand, who traded much material found in previous editions of our *Abbreviations Dictionary* for new items in his *Pacific Index of Abbreviations and Acronyms in Common Use in the Pacific Basin*.

Dr Irma Isabel Lovera DeSola of Caracas, Venezuela, who furnished most of the Venezuelan entries and others from around Latin America.

James C Palmer, who compiled and edited the *ERIC Dictionary of Educational Acronyms, Abbreviations and Initialisms*, for a great many entries in the field of education.

Brother John-Charles of the Society of Saint Francis American Province, who provided many liturgical abbreviations. Another contributor was Mary Bucher of Columbus, Ohio.

The *List of Acronyms*, compiled by Linda Blocki of New Mexico, was most welcome.

Other contributors were: Dan Kerlee and Carol Wollenberg in Seattle; Susan Luce in Raleigh, North Carolina; Emmett Murray in Kirkland, Washington; Julie Van Keuren in Olympia, Washington; Hal and Mildred Cary, Dr David Cary and Anna Marie Cary, Julian Gotkewicz, Douglas D McArthur, Chris Mahan, Marie Pauk, John and Fay Silverstein, Simeon Stern, Dr Walter Teutsch and Lucy van Donck in San Diego; Carla De Sola Eaton in Berkeley, California; Dr Ronda De Sola Chervin in Woodland Hills, California; Lorraine Sherkin in Toronto, Canada; Joe Rosner in New York City; and Vanessa Browne near London, England.

We are indebted, finally, to the many reference librarians in Seattle and San Diego who offered valuable ideas and assistance.

How to Use This Book

Definition of Terms

abbreviations abridged contractions such as acdt: accident; AEC: Atomic Energy Commission; NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

acronyms words formed from letters in a series of related words such as ABLE: Activity Balance Line Evaluation; AGREE: Advisory Group on Reliability of Electronic Equipment; DYNAMO: Dynamic Action Management Operations.

anonyms attempts of authors to enjoy anonymity while maintaining their identity by such devices as the capitalized diphthong Æ standing for Æon, pen name of George William Russell.

contractions words shortened by dropping nonpronounced letters or omitted letter(s) that are indicated by apostrophes as in can't: can not; Lit'l: little; doesn't: does not; let's: let us.

eponyms designations derived from family names, nicknames or names of places or persons, e.g., Hapsburg dynasty, *Eroica* symphony, Paris of America (Montreal), Raynaud's disease.

geographical equivalents entries such as Far East: countries and islands of East Asia or the Pacific—eastern Siberia, China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Indochina, the Philippines, the Malay Peninsula.

initials FDR: Franklin Delano Roosevelt; HST: Harry S Truman; JFK: John Fitzgerald Kennedy; LBJ: Lyndon Baines Johnson; initials of all American presidents are included as well as initials of other noted personalities.

nicknames Al: Alfred; Bea: Beatrice; Hal: Harold; Ike: Dwight David Eisenhower, Isaac.

place name pseudonyms see *Cannery Row*, *Main Street*, *Middletown*, *Red Gap*, *Spoon River*, *Tortilla Flat*, *Yoknapatawpha*, *Zenith* entries.

short forms amps: amperes; Olds: Oldsmobile; pots.: potentiometers.

signs \$ & ¢—dollars and cents.

slang shortcuts B-girl: bar girl; C-note: \$100 bill; 1-G: \$1000.

symbols Al: aluminum; Pt: platinum; Rx: prescription; recipe.

toponyms place names convicts use when stating where they were imprisoned.

STYLE

Arrangement

Everything in this book is arranged in alphabetical and numerical order. For entries containing the same letter, lowercase precedes capital (aa, AA); roman precedes italics (AWA, A WA); unpunctuated precedes punctuated (BAE, B.A.E.). An Arabic numeral precedes its Roman equivalent (3, III). The following connectives are ignored in the alphabetical arrangement: & (ampersand), and, by, for, in, of, or, + (plus), the, to. All other articles, particles, prepositions, and the like (between, de, del, di) are treated alphabetically. For example, U of P is alphabetized as UP; *U de ST* appears as if it were UdeSt.

A dollar sign (\$) is treated as if it were a lowercase “d,” the pound sign (£) as a lowercase “p,” and a mu (μ) as a lowercase “m.”

In the case of a parenthetical plural ending, the parenthesis will be ignored [e.g., paren(s) is treated as parens].

Capitalization

Capitalization of abbreviations, according to Department of Defense Military Standard 12-B (Mil-Std 12-B), must follow the rules of English grammar. All proper nouns are capitalized. All common nouns are lowercase. Units of weight, measure, and velocity, such as lb, kg, in., cc, mm, rpm, and the like, appear in lowercase to avoid confusion with other letter combinations they resemble.

Many military establishments and officers use full capitals for everything because message machines were provided with only capital letters. That is why many engineering drawings supplied the armed forces contain all abbreviations in capital letters. It is also true that many draftsmen were afraid small letters would fill in, especially a's, b's, e's, g's, o's, and the like. Therefore, they also like to use capital letters. In text, however, 1500 RPM presents a typographical blob, as compared to the more sophisticated 1500 rpm.

At first loran was LORAN. As people became more used to it, it became Loran. Today it is loran. The same is true of other combinations. The trend is to capitalize only those letters standing for proper nouns, running all common nouns in lowercase. Nevertheless, for the sake of readers and researchers, some incorrectly rendered abbreviations appear in this book. Many people have a marked tendency to capitalize everything they think is important. If this tendency is unchecked, confusion follows. All abbreviations and acronyms look alike. So follow the commonsense rules of good grammar and correct usage.

Chemical element symbols, however, have the first letter capitalized: Au (gold), Zn (zinc), etc. The second letter of a chemical symbol always appears in lowercase.

Exceptions

The singular, plural, and tense of the word abbreviated do not alter the abbreviation except in a few instances, such as fig.: figure; figs.: figures; no.: number; nos: numbers; p: page; pp: pages; S. Saint; SS: Saints.

However, readers should be aware that the International (*SI*) System of Measurements calls for the abolition of all pluralized abbreviations. Hence in. stands for inch or inches, lb for pound or pounds, oz for ounce or ounces.

Documentary abbreviations are rendered as follows: FARs (Failure Analysis Reports) or IRs (Inspector's Reports) or RARs (Reliability Action Reports). In the singular they appear as FAR, IR, RAR.

Italics

Items from Latin and other non-English languages, as well as titles of books and periodicals, are usually set in italic type. Many physical symbols are also set in italics to differentiate them from other letter combinations.

Punctuation

Short forms are devised to save time and space and to overcome the necessity of repeating long words and phrases. All punctuation is avoided in modern practice unless the form is taken from Latin or there is some conventional use demanding punctuation, as in the case of academic degrees and a few governmental designations. U.S.A. is the country; USA is the army. D.C. is the District of Columbia; DC is direct current when used as a noun. Cash on delivery is not cod but c.o.d. Similarly, fig., figs., and no. require periods to keep readers from thinking they may be words instead of abbreviations for figure, figures, and number. When in doubt, spell it out.

Capitalization and Punctuation Trends

American as well as British and Canadian publishers appear to be following the trend to capitalize only those letters normally capitalized: proper nouns and important words in titles. They reserve lowercase letters for abbreviations consisting of adjectives and common nouns. This obviates the chaos brought about by those who capitalized all the letters in every abbreviation and then compounded their error by placing unnecessary *full* stops or periods after every letter, as was the custom in bygone times.

Most periods are dropped because it is generally realized that the purpose of all abbreviation is the thoroughgoing promotion of brevity. Years ago, when Rudolf Flesch compiled one of his many useful books, *How To Be Brief—An Index to Simple Writing*, he stated:

To save even more space, leave out abbreviation periods whenever you can. The British omit them regularly ... Mr, Mrs, Dr, St (Saint), Thos, Chas, jr. Periods are often left out after standard abbreviations like US, UN, FCC, PTA ... following the pattern of most telephone books (e.g., plmbg & heatg supls, atty, flrst, acctnts, svce, rl est).

Signs and Symbols

Frequently used signs and symbols appear in the back of this dictionary. Many are found on typewriters (remember those?) and computer keyboards (&: ampersand—the *and* sign; *: asterisk; ¢: cent; \$: dollar, %: percent).

Symbols include the chemical elements (Al: aluminum; Au: gold—from the Latin *aurum*; C: carbon; Sn: tin—from the Latin *stannum*). All are listed in the alphabetical section without special definition to indicate they are not abbreviations but symbols. The chemical elements are also grouped together in the back of this dictionary.

Airlines use two-letter symbols for convenience in baggage handling, ticketing, and scheduling operations. Thus American Airlines is AA, Delta Air Lines is DL, and United Air Lines is UA. These two-letter designations are listed in a separate section at the back of the book.

Railroads and steamship lines are included both in the alphabetical section and in their own sections at the end of the book. Naval craft are designated by many arbitrary symbols. All available are given in the alphabetical section.

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A

a abbreviation; about; absent; absolute; abundant; acceleration in feet per second; accidental; account; acre; acronym; acting; adjective; adjutant; adult; aerial; afternoon; age; allele (recessive); altitude; altitude intercept; alto (instruments or voices); amateur; ampere; annealing; annually; anode; ante; anthracite; apprentice; arc; are (unit of metric land); area; argent; arterial blood (symbol); assist; at; atmosphere; attendance; audit(or); aunt; automatic; available; aviation; aviator; axis; azure; distance from leading edge to aerodynamic center; specific absorption coefficient (symbol); specific rotation (symbol)

a' all (contraction); minute angle; a prime

a'' double prime; second (angle)

a *am, an, an der* (German—on the, at the); angle of attack; *annus* (Italian—year) (Latin—year); *antes* (Spanish—before); *arteria* (Latin—artery); attenuation constant (symbol); autonomous consumption (macro-economic symbol); (Italian—and)

A absolute; absolute temperature; Absorbance; Absorbancy (symbol); academy; accumulator (computerese); acid; acoustic source; actual weight of an aircraft; address (computer symbol); adenine;

adjusted; Admiral; adulterer; adulteress (branded on the foreheads of all convicted of this crime in early New England)—also known as the scarlet letter because branding caused bleeding; Air Branch; aircraft; airman; Alaska Steamship Company; Alcoa Steamship Company; Alfa; allele (dominant); Alpha (code for letter A); alveolar gas (symbol); ambassador; America; American; Americanization; American Stock Exchange (newspaper stock listings); Americanize; Ammunition Examiner (sleeve patch); Amos, The Book of; ampere; amphibian; amplitude; Anchor Line; anode; anterior; Apprentice; April; argon; Army; arterial; Artificer; artillery; Asian; aspect ratio; Assault (military badge); astragal; Assembly Bill; Atlantic; Atomic; atomic weight; attack; August; Australian; Austria (auto plaque); Auxiliary; blood type; bond rating; brassiere cup size; chemical activity; first van der Waals constant; Fraunhofer line due to oxygen; hail (aircraft code); includes extra(s) (in newspaper stock listings); linear acceleration; mean sound absorption coefficient; school grade meaning excel-

lent; shoe size narrower than B; Single-A (baseball); total acidity

Å angstrom unit

A *abajo* (Spanish—down); *abasso* (Italian—down); *absolve* (Latin—I absolve, I acquit); *alas* (Finnish—down); *albus* (Latin—white); *Alp(en)* [German—Alp(s)]; *Alpe(s)* [French—Alp(s)]; *Alpi* (Italian—Alps); *alt* (German—old); *Alteza* (Spanish—Highness); *aprobado* (Spanish—approved)—passed an examination; arrival; *arrivare* (Italian—arrival); arrive; *arrivé* (French—arrival); *Atlantic Reporter*; *auf* (German—up); *Aulus* (Latin—Aulus Gellius)—2nd-century author noted for his *Noctes Atticae* about languages and literature as well as natural history; *aus* (German—out); *avbeta* (Swedish—departure); mountain meadow(s)

Å *aas* (Dano-Norwegian—hills)

a (A) analysis

A+ A-plus; A-positive; Single-A (Advanced-baseball)

A- A-minus; A-negative; atomic (A-bomb)

A-1 air personnel officer; angstrom unit; excellent; first class; first rate; *Lloyd's Register* symbol indicating first rate equipment; personnel section of an air force staff, skyraider single-engine gen-