

English Vocabulary in Use

advanced

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- 52 The media: Internet and e-mail *chat room, browse, cookie*
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- 54 The news: gathering and delivering *column inch, sound bite, hot off the press*

Health

- 55 Health and illness 1 *go down with, hepatitis, typhoid*
- 56 Health and illness 2 *aches and pains, nauseous, acupuncture*
- 57 Health and illness 3 *side effects, jaundiced view, prognosis*
- 58 Diet, sport and fitness *cholesterol, cardiovascular, move the goalposts*

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- 59 Aspects of industrialisation *low-tech, subsidies, lame duck*
- 60 Technology and its impact *PDA, biotechnology, ergonomics*
- 61 Future visions *virtual reality, e-commerce, gene therapy*

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- 62 Space: expanse and confinement *rambling, poky, labyrinth*
- 63 Time: sequence and duration *donkey's years, over the hill, fleeting*
- 64 Motion: nuances of pace and movement *hobble, trudge, stream*
- 65 Manner: behaviour and body language *mind your Ps and Qs, etiquette, twitch*

- 66 Sound: from noise to silence *noiseless, deafening, wail*
- 67 Weight and density *unwieldy, congeal, impervious*
- 68 Colour: range and intensity *ginger, pastel, grey cells*
- 69 Speed *pop, scuttle, rocket*
- 70 Cause and effect *generate, spark off, bring about*
- 71 Comparison and contrast *affinity, disparate, discrete*
- 72 Difficulties, dilemmas and hitches *glitch, gruelling, in a fix*
- 73 Modality: expressing facts, opinions, desires *the odds are, expedient, compulsory*
- 74 Number: statistics and assessing quantity *IQ, aggregate, round down*

Functional vocabulary

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I

Abbreviations and acronyms

A

Abbreviations are simply the shortening of words and expressions.

Some common abbreviations come from Latin:

e.g. for example, from *exempli gratia*

i.e. that is, from *id est*

NB note well, from *nota bene*

AD the year of Our Lord, used to count years since the birth of Christ, from *Anno Domini*

Some come from shortened words:

bedsit: one room which is a **bed**room and a **sitting** room

sitcom: short for **situational comedy** (a kind of TV programme)

sci-fi: science fiction

Some are pronounced as individual letters:

EU European Union

ID identity document

BC Before Christ, used to count years before the birth of Christ

asap as soon as possible

Some abbreviations are **acronyms**, i.e. they are formed from the first letters (or occasionally syllables) of a word or series of words and are pronounced as a word:

AIDS /'eɪdz/ acquired immune deficiency syndrome

NATO /'neɪtəʊ/ North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Some can be pronounced both as an acronym and as individual letters:

VAT value-added tax, pronounced /væt/ or /vi: eɪ ti:/

UFO unidentified flying object, pronounced /'ju:fəʊ/ or /ju: ef 'əʊ/

B

Sometimes abbreviations can have more than one meaning.

AA Alcoholics Anonymous [an organisation helping people with alcohol-related problems] *and* **the AA** the Automobile Association [a UK motorists' club]

PC personal computer *or* Police Constable [the lowest rank of police officer in the UK] *or* politically correct [avoiding expressions which may suggest prejudice and cause offence]

m metre, mile, million, male, married **p** per, pence, page

C

Some abbreviations are particularly common in writing.

RSVP reply please [used on invitations, from French, *répondez s'il vous plaît*]

PTO please turn over

FAQ frequently asked question [found mainly on websites]

These abbreviations are increasingly common in electronic text messages:

FYI for your information **AFK** away from keyboard **LOL** laughing out loud

BTW by the way **R** are **C** see **U** you **EZ** easy **4** for **2** to, too, two

D

Abbreviations are often used in newspaper small ads for accommodation.

£300 **pcm excl:** rent is £300 per calendar month excluding payment for gas, electricity, etc.

£60 **pw inc:** rent is £60 per week including gas, electricity, etc.

f/f: fully furnished **s/c:** self-contained [has all it needs within itself]

suit n/s prof female: would suit a non-smoking woman in a professional job

all mod cons: all modern conveniences, e.g. washing machine

ch: central heating **d/g:** double garage **o.n.o.:** or nearest offer

Note that you may see different punctuation for these expressions – **c/h**, **c.h.** and **ch**

Exercises

1.1 Insert the correct Latin abbreviations from A into the gaps.

- 1 This antique vase dates from 1500
- 2 Fruit, the usually sweet part of a tree or bush which contains seeds, is normally delicious to eat.
- 3 fruit cannot be taken across the border into the USA.
- 4 Fruits, lemons, pears and grapes, are sometimes added when cooking poultry.

1.2 How are the abbreviations in these sentences pronounced? What do they stand for?

- 1 If he can't kick the habit on his own, he should try joining AA.
- 2 Read pp.10–22 for homework.
- 3 Cars must not exceed 30 mph in a built-up area.
- 4 The film gives a convincing depiction of life BC despite some curious anachronisms.
- 5 Do you believe in UFOs?
- 6 Write back asap.

1.3 What do these abbreviations stand for? Choose from the words in the box. Use each word once only.

- 1 WHO 2 UNESCO 3 IMF 4 OBE 5 GMT 6 IOC 7 RSPCA 8 EST

Animals	Educational	International	Organisation	Standard
British	Empire	Mean	Organisation	Time
Committee	Fund	Monetary	Prevention	Time
Cruelty	Greenwich	Nations	Royal	United
Cultural	Health	Olympic	Scientific	World
Eastern	International	Order	Society	

1.4 Translate this mobile phone text message into standard English.

c u t at 3, OK? BTW K's going 2 b here 2.

1.5 As requested in the note below, write an advert to appear in the small ads column of the local newspaper. Use D opposite to help you and be as brief as possible.

Could you prepare an advert for a girl to rent the third bedroom in our flat? We want someone who doesn't smoke and it would be nice to have a teacher or a nurse or someone in a reasonably reliable job. The advert had better mention that the flat is fully furnished and centrally heated and has all the kitchen appliances she might need. Don't, of course, forget to say that she would have to pay £220 a month, not including bills.

1.6 Write an advert for someone to rent your own house or flat.

1.7 Sometimes the exact name of an organisation is chosen so that its acronym has a humorous or memorable effect. For example, ASH stands for Action on Smoking and Health. Here are some more examples. What do you think the other letters stand for?

- 1 DUMP Disposal of Medicines and
- 2 NOW National of Women
- 3 UNITE of National Income Tax Employees
- 4 CALL Computer Assisted Learning
- 5 AAAAA American for the of Abbreviations and Acronyms