

ABBREVIATIONS

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An abbreviation is a word that has been shortened to its initial letter or sound. There are two sorts of abbreviations:-

- 1) Where a word (sometimes in Latin) has been shortened to its first few letters. "e.g." is short for "exempli gratia". In English this means "for example".
- 2) Where a name of an organisation has been shortened to the first letters of each of the words in its name. e.g. British Broadcasting Corporation is BBC

Note: It is now common practice for abbreviations using capital letters to miss out the full stops after each letter. Lower case letters tend to keep the capital letter.

Here is a list of the main abbreviations that are useful for a primary school child:

AA - Automobile Association
am - *ante meridian* (before noon)
BA - Bachelor of Arts
BBC - British Broadcasting Corporation
BC – Before Christ
BST - British Summer Time
C - Centigrade
c. - *circa* (about)
Co. - company/county
dept. - department
Dr - Doctor
Ed. - editor/edited by
EEC - European Economic Community
esp. - especially
FA - Football Association
GB - Great Britain
g - gram
HMS - Her/His Majesty's Ship
i.e. - *id est* (that is)
IOU - I owe you
JP - Justice of the Peace
l - litre
Ltd – Limited
m – metre/married
MA - Master of Arts
m.p.h. - miles per hour
p.a. - *per annum* (each year)
p.m. - *post meridian* (after midday)
PE - Physical Education
RAC - Royal Automobile Club
Rev. - Reverend (put before a vicar's name)
SOS - Save Our Souls
St. - Saint/street
TV - Television
UK - United Kingdom
VC - Victoria Cross
Xmas - Christmas

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