

CURRENT ABBREVIATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

In the first issue of *English Usage in Southern Africa*, the editors explained that their task was 'to assist in keeping English alive in this country, and to help enquirers wherever possible'. The initial volumes, published between 1970 and 1974, served 'to introduce the tentative findings of the *Index*¹ staff to a wider public', through word lists, definitions, and occasional articles. In 1975 these lists and definitions were brought together in *A Dictionary of English Usage in Southern Africa*, edited by D.R. Beeton and Helen Dorner, and published by Oxford University Press in Cape Town.

The publication of the dictionary prompted a re-examination of the aims of the *Index*, as the editors felt that attention should now be focussed on South African English in particular fields (e.g. mining, schoolboyisms). Accordingly, from Vol. 5, no. 1, the editors have concentrated on the publication of articles, reviews and word lists which reflect these 'variants'.

In this index of current abbreviations the examples listed are not necessarily exclusive to South African usage. They are those – whatever the country of their origin, or wherever else they may occur – that *are in use* in Southern Africa.

To make the index effective we require your co-operation. We should be grateful if any problems or mistakes, any variants or omissions, could be noted and sent to the editors.

It is hoped that the compilation of this index of abbreviations will one day provide a service similar to Ralph de Sola's *Abbreviations Dictionary*, or the *World List of Abbreviations of Scientific, Technical and Commercial Organisations* compiled by F.A. Buttress. The attention of readers is also drawn to E.W. Allen's *Dictionary of Abbreviations and Symbols*, and the *List of Abbreviations of Names of Societies and Organisations* produced in 1955 by the Information and Library Division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

¹ The long term project was then known as the Index of English Usage in Southern Africa. Only on final publication was the word 'Index' changed to 'Dictionary' on the advice of the publisher.

METHOD AND FORMAT

1. Capital letters are reserved for proper nouns and lower case for common nouns, except where custom demands a deviation from the rule (e.g. CSIR: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; etc: *etcetera*). Lower case is used after an initial capital letter when the abbreviation is generally used as an acronym (see definitions below).
2. Abbreviations are listed in alphabetical and numerical order. To facilitate this arrangement, prepositions, articles and the ampersand have been ignored (D & M, for example, has been classified as DM in the alphabetical order).
3. Stops have been omitted, except where they are used to differentiate one abbreviation from another (e.g. SAP: South African Party; S.A.P.: South African Police).
4. As this is an index, there are many duplications (the South African Railways and Harbours has, for instance, a three, four and five letter designation: SAR, SAR&H, Sarah).

TYPES OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations: contractions (CSIR: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; etc: *etcetera*).

Acronyms: words formed from letters in a series of related words (learn: Let Every African Read Now).

Innovative Acronyms: new words formed from letters in a series of related words (Sanfa: South African National Football Association).

Artificial Acronyms: innovative acronyms formed by dropping non-pronounced letters (Wrab: West Rand Bantu Administration Board).

Short Forms (Contracted Forms): two or more related words joined together in contracted form (Unicorp: Union Corporation).

A.D.A.

M.H.

What follows is an addition to the list we published in volume 9, number 1.

A

ampere

AAB

Anglo-Afrikaner Band

AACC

All-African Conference of Churches

- AB
Afrikaner Broederbond
- abs
absolute
- ac
alternating current
- AFC
African Football Confederation
- AHI
Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut
- ahp
air horse-power
- Aktur
Action Committee for the Preservation of Turnhalle Principles
- ALRA
Abortion Law Reform Association
- amp
ampere
- AMPS
All Media Product Survey
- AMS
Action Moral Standards (Association)
- AOPSO
Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation
- Arag
Abortion Reform Action Group
- Arm Scor
Armaments Corporation of South Africa
- AWOL
Absent Without Leave
- Azap
Zaire News Agency
- BA
Bachelor of Arts
- Baab
Bantu Affairs Administration Board
- BA HONS
Bachelor of Arts, Honours
- bhp
brake horse-power
- BSc
Bachelor of Science
- C
Celsius

- °C
degrees centigrade
- °C abs
degrees Kelvin (see: °K)
- cal
calorie
- Capt
Captain
- CBD
Central Business District (Association)
- CBDA
Central Business District Association
- cc
cubic centimetre
- CCF
Central Committee of Frelimo
- CCP
City Council of Pretoria
- CF The
Citizen Force
- CFCIA
Cape Flats Committee for Interim Accommodation
- cfm
cubic feet per minute
- CLSA
Christian League of South Africa
- cm
centimetre
- cm³
cubic centimetre
- CMBU
Confederation of Metal and Building Unions
- Cmds
Commands
- Cmdt
Commandant
- CO
Candidate Officer
- Col
Colonel
- COL
Cost of Living
- CPC
Cape Provincial Council

- CRAP
Calorific Recovery Anaerobic Process
- CSMBA
Civil Service Medical Benefit Association
- dB
decibel
- dc
direct current
- DCA
Department of Civil Aviation
- DH
Defence Headquarters
- diam
diameter
- DTA
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance
- dwt
pennyweight
- DZ
Dropping Zone
- El Al
Israeli National Airline
- Eltic
English Language Teaching Information Centre
- EP
Eastern Province
- EPCA
Eastern Province Cricket Association
- EPCU
Eastern Province Cricket Union
- EPSB
Eastern Province Soccer Board
- EPSC
Eastern Province Sports Council
- °F
degrees Fahrenheit
- °F abs
degrees Rankine (see: °R)
- FAO
Free Africa Organisation
- FCDRC
Federal Council of Dutch Reformed Churches
- FCSA
Football Council of South Africa

Fedhasa
 Federated Hotel Associations of South Africa
 FFR
 French Rugby Federation
 FIEJ
 International Federation of Publishers
 FNLA
 National Liberation Front of Angola
 FNLC
 Congo National Liberation Front
 FPL
 Federation Professional League
 fpm
 feet per minute
 fps
 feet per second
 FSA
 Footplate Staff Association
 FSPE
 Federation of Societies of Professional Engineers
 ft
 foot
 ft²
 square foot
 ft-lb
 foot-pound
 g
 gram
 gal
 gallon
 GDP
 Gross Domestic Product
 Gen
 General
 gm
 gram
 GP
 Grand Prix
 General Practitioner
 gph
 gallons per hour
 gpm
 gallons per minute
 gr
 grain

GST

General Sales Tax

h

hour

'Habitat'

Environmental research group of the University of Cape Town

HP

Hire purchase

hp

horse-power

ICC

International Cricket Conference

ICS

Imperial Cold Storage

IFJ

International Federation of Journalists

IISS

International Institute for Strategic Studies

in

inch

in²

square inch

in Hg

inches of mercury

in wg

inches of water gauge

IRB

International Rugby Board

ISAA

Institute of South African Architects

ITF

International Tennis Federation

IUEF

International Universities Exchange Fund

JC

Junior Certificate

JFC

Johannesburg Flying Club

JODS

Johannesburg Operatic and Dramatic Society

JSTC

Junior Secondary Teachers Certificate

°K

degrees Kelvin (see: °C abs)

kcal
 kilocalorie, kilogram-calorie
 kg
 kilogram
 KVA
 kilovolt-ampere
 KW
 kilowatt
 KWh
 kilowatt-hour
 l
 litre
 lb
 pound
 lb/cu ft
 pounds per cubic foot
 lb/ft²
 pounds per square foot
 lb/ft³
 pounds per cubic foot
 lb/sq ft
 pounds per square foot
 Learn
 Let Every African Read Now
 LSD
 Lysergic Acid Deathylamide
 Lt
 Lieutenant
 2 Lt
 Second lieutenant
 M1 The
 Highway through Johannesburg
 M2 The
 Highway through Johannesburg
 MA
 Master of Arts
 Mac
 Maximum allowable concentration
 Maj
 Major
 MASA
 Medical Association of South Africa
 MI
 Military Intelligence

min
 minute
 ml
 millilitre
 mm Hg
 millimetre mercury
 MOTH
 Memorable Order of Tin Hats
 mph
 miles per hour
 MRAP
 Movement Against Racism and Anti-Semitism
 MVSSA
 Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa
 Nafcoc
 National African Federated Chamber of Commerce
 NASL
 North American Soccer League
 NBC
 Nazareth Baptist Church
 NBRI
 National Building Research Institute
 NBS
 Natal Building Society
 NCFS
 National Catholic Federation of Students
 NCMFL
 National Council for Marriage and Family Life
 NGF
 National Growth Fund
 NNF
 Namibian National Front
 NRU
 Natal Rugby Union
 NSM
 National Serviceman
 NTRU
 Northern Transvaal Rugby Union
 Nuswel
 National Union of Students Welfare (Association)
 OB
 Ossewa Brandwag
 OC
 Officer Commanding

OECD

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development

OED

Oxford English Dictionary

OSC

Ordnance Services Corps

oz

ounce

PE

Physical Education

PLO

Palestine Liberation Organisation

PMM

Pro Merito Medal

Polludex

Pollution Index

ppcc

particles per cubic centimetre

PRD

Department of Plural Relations

PS

Postscript

PSC

Personnel Services Corps

psi

pounds per square inch

psia

pounds per square inch absolute

psig

pounds per square inch gauge

PSMAA

Public Service Medical Aid Association

PT

Physical Training

PTC

Primary Teachers Certificate

°R

degrees Rankine (see: °F abs)

R Adm

Rear Admiral

RCU

Rhodesian Cricket Union

RE

Religious Education

RI

Religious Instruction

RPC

Regional Planning Commission

rpm

revolutions per minute

RRU

Rhodesian Rugby Union

RSM

Regimental Sergeant Major

RTB

Road Transportation Board

RWB

Rand Water Board

s

second

SAA

South African Artillery

SAAC

South African Armoured Corps

SA AMMO C

South African Ammunition Corps

Saba

South African Black Alliance

SAC

Soweto Action Committee

SA CATC

South African Caterers Corps

SACB

South African Corps of Bandsmen

SACC

South African Council on Sport

SACC

South African Cape Corps

SACCC

South African Co-ordinating Consumer Council

SACCSW

South African Co-ordinating Council of Social Workers

SACMP

South African Corps of Military Police

Sacos

South African Council on Sport

SACS

South African Corps of Signals

SAEC

South African Engineer Corps

SAIC

South African Infantry Corps

SA INT C

South African Intelligence Corps

SAITINT

South African Institute of Translators and Interpreters

Saldru

South African Labour and Development Research Unit

Salscom

South African Liberation Support Committee

SALTU

South African Lawn Tennis Union

SAMC

South African Medical Corps

Samraf

South African Military Refugee Aid Fund

Samro

South African Music Rights Organisation

SAMVIF

South African Motor Vehicle Insurance Fund

SANLTU

South African Non-Racial Lawn Tennis Union

SAONGA

South African Olympic and National Games Association

SAPC

South African Press Council

SAPOA

South African Property Owners' Association

Sappi

South African Pulp and Paper Industries

SASU

South African Swimming Union

SATMC

South African Tyre Manufacturers' Conference

SAWC

South African Women's Corps

SAZF

South African Zionist Federation

SC

Senior Certificate

SCM

Student Christian Movement

SDA

Students Democratic Alliance

Seifsa

Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa

SMF

Sizwe Medical Fund

SOA

Surface Officials' Association

SOED

Shorter Oxford English Dictionary

sp ht

specific heat

sq ft

square foot

sq in

square inch

SSB

Special Service Battalion

SSW

Society of Social Workers (Johannesburg)

SWD

South-Western Districts

Teach

Teach Every African Child

TECSU

Transvaal Education Colleges Students' Union

tlv

threshold limit value

TOA

Technical Officials Association

tp

thermal precipitator

TSC

Technical Services Corps

TSU

Transvaal Skateboard Union

TV

Television

UNAC

United African National Council

UCM

University Christian Movement

mm

micrometre

UOA
 Underground Officials' Association
 UP
 University of Pretoria
 US
 United States
 Obsolete, outmoded, 'of no use'
 USA
 United States of America
 V
 volt
 VNP
 Venda National Party
 vrt
 virgin rock temperature
 VIP
 Venda Independence Party
 W
 watt
 WARC
 Witwatersrand Association of Racing Clubs
 WBA
 World Boxing Association
 WCCPCR
 World Council of Churches Programme to Combat Racism
 WCT
 World Court Tennis
 WCTA
 Western Cape Traders' Association
 WO
 Warrant Officer
 WO1
 Warrant Officer, First Class
 WO2
 Warrant Officer, Second Class
 WO11
 Warrant Officer, Second Class
 WP
 Western Province
 WPC
 World Peace Council
 WPRFU
 Western Province Rugby Football Union
 WUS
 World University Service

WZC

World Zionist Congress

YACM

Young African Christian Movement

Yarm

Young African Religious Movement

YCW

Young Christian Workers

Zanla

Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army

[A further list is at present being compiled. The first list appeared in Vol. 9 No. 1.]

A.D.A.

M.H.