

Abbreviations, Initialisms and Acronyms

1. Abbreviations (PT: Abreviações)

An abbreviation is a shortened form of a word, such as “*Mr.*” for “*Mister*”. Abbreviations are written with a dot at the end. They are spoken as the full word. Here are some examples:

- St. Street
- Av. Avenue
- Mon. Monday
- Jan. January
- km. kilometer
- vs. versus
- mins. minutes

Some abbreviations come from other languages. For example:

- oz. ounce (from the Italian word “*onzo*”)
- lb. pound (from the Latin word “*libra*”)

2. Initialisms (PT: Siglas)

Initialisms are a series of initial letters of words or a phrase which are written together but are not pronounced as a word. We speak each letter. Some people call these “acronyms” but strictly speaking they are “initialisms”. Here are some examples:

- VIP Very Important Person
- ASAP As Soon As Possible
- BBC British Broadcasting Corporation
- BC / AD Before Christ / Anno Domini (PT: AC / DC)
- USA United States of America (PT: EUA)
- UK United Kingdom (PT: RU)
- UAE United Arab Emirates (PT: EAU)
- EU European Union (PT: UE)
- WHO World Health Organization (PT: OMS)
- UN United Nations (PT: ONU)
- IMF International Monetary Fund (PT: FMI)
- HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus (PT: VIH)
- CDC Centers for Disease Control
- WWF World Wide Fund (for Nature)
- CNN Cable News Network
- FYI For your information
- CIA Central Intelligence Agency
- FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation
- HSBC Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
- ETA Estimated Time of Arrival
- PM Prime Minister
- MP Member of Parliament
- AC / DC Alternating Current / Direct Current
- DUI Driving Under the Influence (of alcohol or drugs)
- DIY Do it yourself
- AKA Also known as
- WWW World Wide Web

Some initialisms come from other languages. For example:

- am Ante Meridiem (Latin, meaning “before midday”)
- pm Post Meridiem (Latin, meaning “after midday”)
- AD Anno Domini (Latin, meaning “in the Year of our Lord”)
- RSVP Répondez s’il vous plaît (French, meaning “please respond”)
- e.g. Exempli gratia (Latin, meaning “free example”)
- i.e. Id est (Latin, meaning “that is”)

3. Acronyms (PT: Acrônimos)

An acronym uses the first letter(s) of each word in a phrase to spell out another word. It’s similar to an initialism, but we say it as a word. We sometimes forget that an acronym is, in fact, a series of letters from a phrase. For example, when we go scuba diving, we rarely remember the fact that the word “scuba” is an acronym from "Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus." Here are some more examples:

- POTUS President Of The United States
- NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization (PT: OTAN)
- Interpol International Criminal Police Organization (*INTER*national *POL*ice)
- FedEx Federal Express
- NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- UNESCO United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- Radar RAdio Detecting And Ranging
- Sonar SOUNd NAVigation Ranging
- Aids Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (PT: Sida)
- FOMO Fear of missing out
- WEIRD Western, Educated, Industrialised, Rich, Democratic

Source:

<https://abbreviations.yourdictionary.com/articles/what-is-the-difference-between-an-abbreviation-and-an-acronym.html>

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx0wvp1hVrg> (20 mins)

4. Some Portuguese Initialisms and Acronyms

- Libras (Língua Brasileira de Sinais)
- IBGE (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística)
- FGTS (Fundo de Garantia do Tempo de Serviço)
- ICMS (Imposto sobre Circulação de Mercadorias e Prestação de Serviços)
- CPMF (Contribuição Provisória sobre Movimentação Financeira)
(<https://www.todapolitica.com/cpmf/>)
- IPTU (Imposto Predial e Territorial Urbano)
- IBTI (Imposto sobre Transmissão de Bens Imóveis)
- CPF (Cadastro de Pessoa Física)
- CPNJ (Cadastro Nacional de Pessoas Jurídicas)
- IPVA (Imposto sobre Propriedades de Veículos Automotores)