

Abbreviations . . .

636.1 Acronyms

An **acronym** is an abbreviation that can be pronounced as a word. It does not require periods.

WHO — World Health Organization

ROM — read-only memory

FAQ — frequently asked question

636.2 Initialisms

An **initialism** is similar to an acronym except that it cannot be pronounced as a word; the initials are pronounced individually.

PBS — Public Broadcasting System

BLM — Bureau of Land Management

WNBA — Women's National Basketball Association

Common Acronyms and Initialisms

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	ORV	off-road vehicle
CETA	Comprehensive Employment and Training Act	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency	PAC	political action committee
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration	PIN	personal identification number
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation	PSA	public service announcement
FCC	Federal Communications Commission	ROTC	Reserve Officers' Training Corps
FDA	Food and Drug Administration	SADD	Students Against Destructive Decisions
FDIC	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	SSA	Social Security Administration
FHA	Federal Housing Administration	SUV	sport utility vehicle
FmHA	Farmers Home Authority	SWAT	special weapons and tactics
FTC	Federal Trade Commission	TDD	telecommunications device for the deaf
IRS	Internal Revenue Service	TMJ	temporomandibular joint
MADD	Mothers Against Drunk Driving	TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement	VA	Veterans Affairs
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	VISTA	Volunteers in Service to America
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	WAC	Women's Army Corps
OEO	Office of Economic Opportunity	WAVES	Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service
OEP	Office of Emergency Preparedness		