**Abbreviations and acronyms** are shortened forms of words or phrases. An **abbreviation** is typically a shortened form of words used to represent the whole (such as Dr. or Prof.) while an **acronym** contains a set of initial letters from a phrase that usually form another word (such as radar or scuba).

The world of [email](https://abbreviations.yourdictionary.com/articles/email-abbreviations.html), [texting](https://www.yourdictionary.com/slideshow/are-you-texting-what-you-think-youre-texting.html), and instant messaging has given rise to a whole series of acronyms and initialisms that allow texters to complete their messages more quickly. Nearly all are initialisms because they are pronounced letter by letter. Occasionally some are pronounced as words in conversation, though this is uncommon.

* BTW - By The Way
* IDK - I Don't Know
* IMO - In My Opinion
* IRL - In Real Life
* NYOB - None of Your Business
* OFC - Of Course
* OMG - Oh My God
* **ASAP - As Soon As Possible**
* MAJ - Major
* UN - United Nations
* USAF - United States Air Force

Acronyms are a useful way to convey essential information quickly, but only if you know what they mean. Informative acronyms are commonly used in the [medical field](https://abbreviations.yourdictionary.com/articles/medical-abbrev.html) but have also crossed over from industries into daily life. Pronounced acronyms are in bold; the rest are initialisms in which each letter is pronounced separately:

* ABS - Anti-lock Braking System
* ADD - Attention Deficit Disorder
* ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
* **AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome**
* AMA - Against Medical Advice
* CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
* **DARE - Drug Abuse Resistance Education**
* DOA - Dead On Arrival
* DOB - Date Of Birth
* DIY - Do It Yourself
* ESL - English As A Second Language
* FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions
* **GIF - Graphics Interchange Format**
* HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus
* ID - Identification
* IQ - Intelligence Quotient
* MD - Medical Doctor
* OTC - Over The Counter
* PPV - Pay Per View
* PS - Post Script
* **RADAR - Radio Detection And Ranging**
* **SONAR - Sound Navigation And Ranging**
* SUV - Sports Utility Vehicle
* TBA - To Be Announced
* UFO - Unidentified Flying Object
* **OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration**
* **NAFTA - North American Free Trade Agreement**
* **NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration**
* **Navy SEALs - Navy Sea Air Land forces**
* **POTUS - President of the United States**

