

## The Guardian and Observer style guide

# Guardian and Observer style guide: Z

'The reason why we have two ears and only one mouth is that we may listen the more and talk the less.' **Zeno of Citium (c336-c265BC)**

Fri 18 Dec 2015 17:20 GMT

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**



📷 Illustration: Jakob Hinrichs

### **Zaluzhnyi, Gen Valerii**

former commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces

### **Zanu-PF**

Zimbabwean political party formerly led by Robert Mugabe

### **Zapatero, José Luis Rodríguez**

Socialist politician who served two four-year terms as prime minister of Spain from 2004

### **-ze**

endings: use -se, even if this upsets your (American) spellchecker, eg emphasise, realise; but capsize

### **zeitgeist**

### **Zelenskyy, Volodymyr**

### **Zellweger, Renée**

T

**Zephaniah, Benjamin****zero**

plural zeros; but zeroes in on

**zero-hours contracts****Zeta-Jones, Catherine****zeugma**

A figure of speech in which, typically, a single verb is used to yoke together two or more parts of a sentence with different meanings. Some examples:

“The queen takes counsel and tea” (Pope).

“Mr Pickwick took his hat and his leave” (Dickens).

And more recently:

“The following year, in *Sing Your Worries Away*, she played a stripper, taking off her clothes and her sister.”

(Ronald Bergan, in a 2010 Guardian obituary of June Havoc, Gypsy Rose Lee’s sister)

**zhoosh**

an example of gay slang ([see Polari](#)), used in the fashion industry and on US television shows such as *Will and Grace* and *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, it has various shades of meaning: (noun) clothing, ornamentation; (verb) zhoosh your hair, zhoosh yourself up

**zhooshy**

showy

**Zhu Rongji**

Chinese premier (prime minister) from 1998 to 2003, when he was succeeded by Wen Jiabao

**zig-a-zig-ah**

in the Spice Girls’ song Wannabe

**zigzag**

no hyphen

**Zika virus****Zimmer**

TM; if it’s not a Zimmer frame, call it a walking frame

**Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali**

president of Tunisia from 1987 to 2011; Ben Ali after first mention

**Zionist**

refers to someone who believes in the right for a Jewish national home to exist within historic Palestine; someone who wants the borders of that entity to be

expanded is not an “ultra-Zionist” but might be described as a hardliner, hawk or rightwinger.

You can be a leftwing Zionist, a rightwing Zionist, a secular Zionist or a religious Zionist – the word should, therefore, be used with great care.

This headline, which appeared in the paper, was misleading and inaccurate: “Mutiny fear in Israeli army as Zionists gain influence”. The online version was much better: “Mutiny fear in Israeli army as religious Zionists gain influence”

### **złoty**

Polish unit of currency

### **“zombie drug”**

often used to describe spice or other substances but best avoided, unless in a direct quote, because of the dehumanising effect of labelling drug users as zombies

### **zoos**

lc: London zoo, San Diego zoo, etc

### **Zynga**

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