

# Abbreviations and acronyms

**Abbreviations** are shortened words. The most common types are: **initialisms** where the first letters of each word form the abbreviation. For example, 'PTO' for 'please turn over', 'e.g.' from Latin *exempli gratia* 'for the sake of an example', or 'i.e.' from Latin *id est*, 'that is'. **Acronyms** are like initialisms, but they can be said as words, e.g. 'NASA' for 'National Aeronautics and Space Administration' or 'scuba' for 'self-contained underwater breathing apparatus'.



## GETTING STARTED

Use your Oxford Student's Dictionary to look up the initialisms in bold and answer the questions.

1. What does the I of **IT** stand for? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the first 'w' of **www** in website addresses? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of television is **CCTV**? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where might the pilot of a **UFO** come from? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the request **RSVP** ask you to do? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is frequently asked in an **FAQ**? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What are you a master of if you receive an **MA**? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What are you a master of if you are an **MC**? \_\_\_\_\_
9. In which country is the **FBI** based? \_\_\_\_\_
10. An **OBE** is an award for which empire? \_\_\_\_\_



## MOVING ON

Use your dictionary to look up the acronyms in bold to answer the following questions.

1. What type of waves are used in **radar**? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What job would you have if you took **scuba** gear to work? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the 'M' of **RAM** represent? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What type of fuel is **derv**? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What type of identification module is a **SIM** card? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What type of identification number is a **PIN** number? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What kind of protocol is **WAP**? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What part of your TV does **Nicam** affect? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What do you get in a **WYSIWYG** printout? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is amplified in a **laser**? \_\_\_\_\_

Create three of your own acronyms. Ask a partner to guess what they mean.

11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_

How many did you get right?

5 = NOVICE

10 = EXPERT

15 = MAESTRO