

Common Abbreviations Used in Cryptic Crosswords

A	First, high class, advanced, article, acre	DI	Princess
AA	Automobile Association ('motorists'); Alcoholics Anonymous ('abstainers')	DIY	Do It Yourself
AB	Able bodied seaman ('tar', 'salt')	DJ	Disc Jockey, Dinner Jacket
AC	Alternating current, account ('bill')	DO	Ditto (the same)
ACC	Account ('bill'), accountant	DOB	Date of Birth
AD	Anno Domini ('now', 'present', 'modern')	DR	Doctor ('Medic')
AE	aged (Latin 'aetat')	E	East ('oriental', 'direction', 'bridge partner', 'wing'), English, energy, Ecstasy ('drug')
AG	Silver; Attorney General	ED	Editor ('journalist', 'hack'), Edward
AKA	Also Known As	EG	For example
AI	First class; main road	ENT	Ear, Nose & Throat ('hospital')
AL	Name ('Capone'), Alabama, Aluminium	EP	Extended Play ('record')
AM	Morning	ER	Queen ('Betty', 'Liz')
AS	Anglo-Saxon, Arsenic	ESP	Extra Sensory Perception
ASS	Association	EST	Estimated
AU	Gold	ET	Extra-Terrestrial ('space traveller')
B	British, Born, Black	EX	Former ('old flame' etc)
BA	Bachelor of Arts ('graduate'), British Airways, Barium	F	Female, Foot, Fellow, Fahrenheit, France, Loud
BB	Brigitte Bardot, Boys' Brigade	FA	Football Association ('footballers')
BC	Before Christ ('old times')	FE	Iron (chemical symbol)
BR	British Rail ('old trains'), Brother, British	FF	Very loud, Fist Fucking
BRO	Brother	FO	Foreign Office
C	Conservative, Centigrade, Circa ('about', 'around'), Cold, Century, Hundred, Carbon	FR	France, Father ('monk')
CA	Chartered accountant, calcium	FRI	Friday
CAL	California	FT	Financial Times, Foot/Feet
CC	Two hundred, carbon copy, cricket club, cubic centimetre ('volume')	G	Gramme, Gravity
CE	Church (of England), Civil Engineer	GA	Georgia (US state)
CH	Church, Child, Companion (of Honour)	GENT	Gentleman
CI	Channel Islands	GG	Horse
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency ('Spies'. 'Intelligent Yanks' etc)	GI	Soldier
CID	Criminal Investigation Department ('Detectives')	GR	King (George), Greece
CO	Commanding Officer, Company ('firm'), Care Of, Cobalt	H	Hot, Hospital, Hour, Hard, Hydrogen
COL	Colonel	HE	His Excellency ('ambassador', 'representative')
CON	Conservative, against	HH	His/Her Highness
CONT	Continued	HM	His/Her Majesty
CU	Copper	HO	House, Head Office
D	Dead, Died, Old Penny, Daughter, 500	HP	Horse Power, Houses of Parliament, Hire Purchase, Sauce
DA	District Attorney (US lawyer)	HR	Hour
DC	Direct Current, District of Columbia	I	One, Island/Isle, Italy, Compiler
DD	Doctor of Divinity ('Churchman', 'Divine')	IC	In Charge
DEC	December	ID	Identification
DEPT	Department	IE	That Is, That's
		IN	Inches

IOM	Isle of Man (NB 'Island' often = 'MAN')	NA	North American, Not Applicable, Sodium
IOW	Isle of Wight	NB	Note Bene ('note', 'note well')
IR	Inland Revenue ('Taxman'), Infra-Red	NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
IT	Information Technology ('computers')	NE	North East, Neon
IV	Four	NI	Northern Ireland, National Insurance
J	Joule	NO	Number
JAN	January	NT	New Testament ('books', 'bible'), National Trust ('conservationists')
JR	Junior	NUM	Miners
K	Kelvin, Constant, King, One Thousand ('Grand')	NUS	Students
KB	Knight of the Bath	NUT	Teachers
KG	Knight of the Garter, Kilogram	NY	New York
KM	Kilometre	O	Old, Zero, Circle ('ring', 'round'), Oxygen
L	Learner, Left ('wing', 'back'), Pound, Latin, Liberal, Litre, Fifty, Large	OAP	Pensioner
LA	Los Angeles	OB	Old Boy
LAB	Labour, Laboratory	OBE	Honour
LB	Pound	OD	Overdose
LH	Left Hand	OE	Old English
LIB	Liberal	OED	Oxford English Dictionary
LL	Lord Lieutenant	OM	Order of Merit ('order')
LP	Long Player ('record')	OO	Spectacles
LSD	Old money, Drug	OP	Opus ('work')
LT	Lieutenant	OS	Outsize ('very large'), Ordinance Survey
M	Married, Male, Member, Million, Monsieur ('Frenchman'), Metre, Mile, Motorway, Thousand, Medium	OT	Old Testament ('books', 'bible')
MA	Master of Arts ('graduate')	OTT	Over The Top, Exaggerated, Camp
MAR	March	OU	Open University
MB	Bachelor of Medicine ('doctor')	OZ	Ounce ('weight'), Australia
MBE	Member of the British Empire ('honour')	P	Penny, Piano, Quiet, President, Parking, Page
MC	Military Cross, Master of Ceremonies	PA	Public Address, Per Annum, Pennsylvania
MD	Doctor of Medicine ('doctor'), Managing Director, Musical Director	PB	Lead (chemical symbol)
MED	Mediterranean ('Sea')	PC	Police Constable, Computer, Postcard, Politically Correct
MEP	Member of European Parliament	PE	Physical Education ('exercises', 'jerks')
MI	Motorway	PIN	Identification
MO	Medical Officer ('doctor'), moment ('short time')	PM	Prime Minister, Afternoon
MOD	Ministry of Defence	PO	Post Office, Petty Officer
MOT	Ministry of Transport ('test')	POW	Prisoner of War
MP	Member of Parliament ('member', 'politician'), Mounted Police, Military Police	PP	Very Quiet, Pages
MPH	Miles Per Hour ('speed')	PR	Public Relations, Proportional Representation
MR	Mister	PROF	Professor
MS	Manuscript ('writing')	PS	Postscript ('final words', 'afterthought')
N	North ('pole', 'bridge partner', 'direction' etc), Nitrogen	PT	Part, Physical Training ('exercises', 'jerks')
		Q	Queen, Question
		R	Queen/King, River, Ring, Right ('wing', 'side')

RA	Artist, Royal Artillery ('gunners', 'soldiers')	U	Universal, Upper Class, Boat, Bend, Turn
RAF	Flyers	UFO	Unidentified Flying Object
RC	Roman Catholic, Red Cross	UK	United Kingdom ('us')
RD	Road	UN	United Nations ('internationalists')
RE	Royal Engineers ('engineers, 'soldiers'), Religious Education ('scripture'), With Reference To	US	America(ns)
REF	Referee, Umpire	V	Volt, Velocity, Five ('a few'), Versus ('against')
REP	Representative ('traveller')	VAT	Tax
REV	Reverend ('vicar', 'clergy'), revolution	VE	Victory in Europe
RH	Royal Highness, Right Hand	VEN	Venerable (Bede)
RI	Religious Instruction ('scripture')	VG	Very Good
RIP	Rest in Peace ('last words', 'epitaph')	VIP	Very Important Person ('bigwig' etc)
RM	Marines	VIZ	Namely
RN	Royal Navy ('sailors', 'fleet')	VO	Voice Over
RR	Right Reverend ('bishop'), Rolls Royce	VOL	Volume
RT	Right ('wing', 'side' etc)	W	West ('wing', 'direction', 'bridge partner'), Watt, Welsh
RU	Rugby Union	X	Ten, Cross, Kiss, Unknown Quantity, Axis
RY	Railway	Y	Yard, Year, Unknown Quantity, Axis
S	South ('direction', 'bridge partner', 'pole' etc), Second(s), Shilling, Small	YR	Year, Your, Younger
SA	South Africa, Sex Appeal, South America, Salvation Army	Z	Zero
SAE	Self-Addressed Envelope	ZZ	Asleep, snoring
SE	South East ('Home Counties')		
SEC	Second		
SEN	Nurse		
SH	Quiet		
SN	Tin (chemical symbol)		
SO	Standing Order		
SOS	Appeal		
SP	Starting Price ('odds')		
SR	Senior		
SS	Nazis, Ship (NB: 'on board' means that something is <u>inside</u> 'SS')		
ST	Saint ('good man'), Street ('way')		
T	Tonne, Time, Model, Square, Junction, Shirt		
TA	Territorial Army ('volunteers')		
TEL	Telephone		
TS	Transsexual		
TT	Teetotal, Races		
TUC	Trades Union Congress ('unions')		
TV	Television ('box'), Transvestite ('trannie')		

Other sources of abbreviations are:

- Roman numerals
- US States
- International Vehicle Registration
- Days of the week
- Months of the year
- Chemical symbols
- Notes of the scale A - G
- Abbreviations in the text of Chambers Dictionary