

## ENGLISH ABBREVIATIONS AS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION IN THE MODERN WORLD

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We live in the time of IT, social networks and the Internet. Every sphere of person's life is improving. The desire to simplify many things resulted in changes in the language and its structure. The pace of life is increasing and it's necessary to get as much information as possible in the shortest time. These are the main reasons for the emergence of abbreviations, acronyms, initials, blends. These reductions are met not only on the Internet sites (BTW, IRL, ASAP) but also in science (HERP, DERP, WEIRD), medicine and other equally important areas.

There is no specific science that studies abbreviations, their history and use. But it is often studied as a subject of research. This topic exists at the level of articles, dictionaries and in our speech. And, therefore, perhaps in the nearest future more attention will be paid to this area, recognizing it as an important discipline. There are special dictionaries created by Oxford which have definitions and explanations of abbreviations. It should be noted that before any abbreviation appears on pages of the dictionary it passes the test of the time (about 5 years). The translators and editors evaluate the significance and relevance of this reduction and only then make a conclusion whether to add it or not.

In this paper we're analyzing "the nature" of abbreviations, the difference between their types, the spheres of their use and their effect on people.

To understand what the abbreviation is, we should start with the definition and major classifications. According to the generally accepted term "An abbreviation is a shortened form of a word or group of words" [3].

There are many different types of abbreviations. The first group includes abbreviations which are reduced in writing but are fully pronounced orally (St., Mrs., Ms., Dc., etc.). The second group consists of abbreviations which are the first part of the longer words, such as bra (brassiere) or limo (limousine). The third one includes such shortenings as NATO, UNESCO, UNICEF. They are pronounced as words rather than as the sequences of letters of the alphabet. The fourth group is represented by abbreviations, which are created by cutting off the end of the word (adv, n, cont, adj). They have a full form in oral speech. But the most common type is initials, for instance, DIY, LOL, USB, TIA, IMHO [2].

E.M. Dubenec in her book "Lexicology of modern English: lectures and seminars" identifies 2 main groups of abbreviations: graphical and lexical. As for graphical abbreviations they are used only in written speech. Most of them are of Latin origin. For instance: a.m. - in the morning (ante meridiem), No - number (numero), p.a. - a year (per annum), d - penny (dinarius), lb - pound (libra), i. e. - that is (id est) [1].

Another type of abbreviation is initials. They are the mixture of graphical and lexical abbreviations. The initials can be pronounced fully in oral speech (like graphical), but some of them are pronounced only in shortened form (like lexical), for example BBC. Sometimes it's too difficult to understand the translation of initials, and it's necessary to use special dictionaries. It's mostly because a large number of them are expressed like in the language of their origin. For instance, UNESCO, UNICEF, SALT [4].

As for lexical abbreviations they are created by clipping a part of a word. So we get a new lexical unit. If compared with a full word, we have either a new lexical meaning ("fantasy" – "fancy") or a style meaning ("laboratory" – "lab"). The following parts of speech can be abbreviated: verbs, nouns, adjectives. There are 3 main types of these abbreviations:

1. Apocope - the end of the word is clipped. For instance, *cinema* (*cinematograph*), expo (exposition), photo (photograph).

2. Apherisis – the beginning of the word is clipped. There are such words as longshore (alongshore), varsity (university), copter (helicopter), cute (acute).

3. Syncope – the middle part of the word is clipped. For instance, mart (market), fanzine (fan magazine) maths (mathematics).

There are cases when we can meet the combination of the apocope and the apheresis, e.g. *tec* (detective), *van* (avanguard) etc.

In modern English we can meet some other types of abbreviations, such as blends and back formation. A word blend is a new word created by the combination of 2 separate words with different meanings. The most popular examples are *brunch* (breakfast + lunch), *smog* (smoke + fog), *sitcom* (situation + comedy). In the back formation nouns are converted into verbs by cutting the last morpheme. The examples of this type are: *to bach* (from bachelor), *to edit* (from editor), *to orate* (from orator), *to emote* (from emotion) [4].

The use of abbreviations covers almost all spheres of human activity. They are rarely used in official writing. Editors and linguists generally recommend avoiding abbreviations in official and general texts, with the exception of some standard ones:

1. Titles and degrees
  - a) titles before surnames (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr.)
  - b) titles after surnames (B.A., B.S., M.A., M.D., M.B.A., M.B., Ph.D.)
2. Latin abbreviations
  - a) abbreviations (p.m., a.m., B. C., A. D.)
  - b) abbreviations (e.g., i.e.)
3. Acronyms in the official text “BP, GM, MTV, NBA, NBC, NFL, VOA, WHO” [4].

The main purpose of abbreviations in a literary text is saving language resources. Abbreviations are most typical of such genres as intellectual detective or "techno-thriller". In addition, they are often found in realistic and romantic novels, their function is the emotional coloring of the dialogues of the characters.

If we touch upon the use of abbreviations in newspaper journalism we can make the conclusion that in this area common abbreviations are often met. The reason is that the newspaper text is designed for the perception and understanding of the mass reader who does not know highly specialized terms and abbreviations.

The use of abbreviations is common in the scientific style. This one contains a huge number of complex and long words, which take up a lot of space, so instead of them it is better to use their common abbreviations.

The development of the Internet and its rapid spread in modern society does not go unnoticed for the English language which is currently the most commonly used language in the network. As a global phenomenon the Internet is becoming a means of mass communication which creates the need for a new vocabulary based on numerous abbreviations. Variety of them can be seen on almost every website. The word itself and the way it is written do not matter, the main thing is the meaning.

This is the top 10 abbreviations on the Internet: “2DAY”, “AFAIK”, “B4N”, “BTW”, “C”, “COS / CUZ”, “ILU”, “IYKWIM”, “WKND”, “X”, “YR” [3].

The language is developing every day. Many new words are fixed in the use, while the old ones are no longer used in speech. Abbreviations are one of the fastest growing units of the language. A huge number of words are replaced by them and it is considered normal. They save space, time and promote understanding.

## References

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