la abbreviation in Internet addresses, the top-level domain for Laos
LA abbreviation Library Association
label /ˈleɪbr(ə)/ noun 1. a piece of paper or card attached to something giving information about it such as its price or address 2. a word or symbol used in computing to identify a piece of data • verb to attach a label to something with information on it such as its price or address
lag /læg/ verb 1. to make slower progress than other people 2. to slow down so that less is produced • Production lagged and there had to be redundancies.
laminate /ˈlæmɪneɪt/ verb to cover a document with a thin film of glossy plastic for protection
lampoon /læmpˈpʊn/ noun a written satirical attack, often with a humorous approach
LAN /ˈleɪn/ abbreviation Local Area Network
landscape format /ˈlændskɛpt/ noun A4-size paper used sideways so that the longest side is at the top
COMMENT: Landscape format is not a normal book format, in that a portrait format book is easier to hold in the hand. Landscape formats are used for art books where many illustrations may be horizontal. Landscape books, especially large art books, are heavy and tend to pull apart at the spine, thus distorting the pages. They also have the disadvantage of not being easy to put on bookshelves, and are especially awkward for bookshop shelves, where the need to show the spine and title makes the book stick out from the shelf much further than others.
land use map /ˈlænd juts,ˈmeɪp/ noun a map used by planners which shows the way land is used in any given district
language /ˈlændɡwɪzdʒ/ noun a system of sounds, signs or symbols used for communication
language dictionary /ˈlændɡwɪzdʒ ˌdɪktʃənɔrɪ/ noun a book that translates words from one language into another, as opposed to a monolingual dictionary which gives definitions within the same language
language laboratory /ˈlændɡwɪzdʒ ləˌbrəˈnɔrɪ/ noun a room equipped with tape recorders and computers which can be used for learning or teaching foreign languages
lapel microphone /ˈlæpəl ˌmɪkroʊˌfaʊn/ noun a small microphone which can be pinned to clothing
lapsed /ˈlæpst/ adjective allowed to end or become invalid
lapsed user /ˈlæpst ˈjʌtsə/ noun somebody who used to make use of a service but no longer does
laptop computer /ˈlæptəp kəm/ noun a computer that is small enough to be held on one’s lap but not small enough for a pocket, usually having a screen, keyboard and disk drive
large crown octavo /lɑːrdʒ kraʊn ˈɒkˌtəʊvə/ noun a book format (198 x 129mm). Abbr 8vo
large crown quarto /lɑːrdʒ kraʊn ˈkwɔrtoʊ/ noun a book format (258 x 201mm). Abbr 4o
large print book /lɑːrdʒ prɪnt ˈbʊk/, large type book /lɑːrdʒ taɪp ˈbʊk/
large print edition  noun a book printed in a very large print size intended for people who have difficulty in seeing, usually found in public libraries and not available in bookshops

large scale  adjective 1. large in number, amount or size 2. referring to a company, activity or object which is larger than the norm

laser beam recording  noun the production of characters on a light-sensitive film by a laser beam controlled directly from a computer

laser disk  noun a plastic disk containing information in the form of small etched dots that can be read by a laser, used to record images or sound in digital form

laser printer  noun a high quality computer printer

launch  verb to start a new activity or make a new product available to the public

lead  verb to be in charge of or guiding an organisation or group

leader  noun 1. a person who manages or directs others 2. the leader of the print workers' union or the print workers' leader 3. she is the leader of the trade mission to Nigeria 4. a piece of blank tape at the beginning of a reel, which is fed into a machine 5. same as leading article

leadership  noun the state of being in control of a group or organisation

leadership style  noun a method used to lead a company or organisation

leading article  noun the main article in a newspaper, written by the editor, expressing the newspaper's official point of view. Also called leader

lead-in page  noun the first page in a videotext system which guides users to other pages

lead story  noun the main news item on television or in a newspaper

lead term  noun a term chosen by the indexer to head an entry

leaf  noun a page of a book printed on both sides (NOTE: The plural is leaves.)
leak /ˈliːk/ noun a breach of security or loss of important information
leakage /ˈliːkædʒ/ noun the unofficial release of confidential information, usually to the media
leakproof /ˈliːkpruʃ/ adjective not allowing breaches in secrecy or confidentiality
leaky /ˈliːki/ adjective allowing breaches in secrecy or confidentiality
learn /lɜːn/ verb to obtain knowledge or skill through study or training
learndirect /ˈlɜːrndɪrɛkt/ a trade name for a service which runs flexible courses in a number of workplace-friendly skills, which can be taken either at a drop-in centre or online
learned journal /ˈlɜːrnɪd ˈdʒɜːrn(ə)l/ noun a specialised magazine on an academic subject
learning /ˈlɜːnɪŋ/ noun knowledge that has been obtained through study
learning curve /ˈlɜːnɪŋ kɜːrə/ noun a graphical description of the speed of learning; "There's a lot to take in so it's a steep learning curve."
learning disability /ˈlɜːrɪŋ ˈdɪsəˌbɪləti/ noun a condition that either prevents or significantly hinders somebody from learning basic skills or information at the same rate as most people of the same age
learning-disabled /ˈlɜːrɪŋ ˈdɪsəˌbɪlətɪd/ adjective prevented or hindered by a learning disability from learning basic skills or information at the same rate as most people of the same age
learning environment /ˈlɜːrnɪŋ ɪnˈvərənmənt/ noun surroundings that are conducive to study and learning
learning management system /ˈlɜːrnɪŋ ˈmænɪdʒmənt ˈsɪstəm/ abbreviation an online system that allows teachers and students to follow a course of study remotely, e.g. by placing course materials online. Abbr LMS
learning organisation /ˈlɜːrnɪŋ ɔrˈɡənəzəʃən/ noun an organisation whose employees are willing and eager to share information with each other, to learn from each other, and to work as a team to achieve their goals
lease /liːs/ noun a written contract for letting or renting a piece of equipment for a period in return for payment of a fee. A verb to let or rent equipment for a period
leather /ˈleðər/ noun material made from the skins of animals, used for binding expensive books
leather binding /ˈleðəbæindrənt/ noun the cover of a book, made from animal skin
leatherbound book /ˈleðəbɔːndˌbʊk/ noun a book that has been bound in leather
leave /liːv/ noun a period of time when somebody is absent from their job or study
lectern /ˈlɛktən/ noun a stand with a sloping top on which a book or notes can rest in front of a standing speaker
lecture /ˈlɛktər/ noun a long talk on a specific subject given to a group of people, often used as a method of teaching in higher education
left-hand corner /ˈlɛft hænd ˈkɔrnər/ noun the top or bottom corner at the left side of a page or envelope
left justification /ˌlɛft dʒəstɪˈfaiən/ noun the process of aligning the left-hand margin on a piece of text so that the edge is even
left justify /ˌlɛft dʒəstɪˈfaiə/ verb to use computer commands which ensure that the text on the left side of a document is straight
legal /ˈliːgl/ adjective 1. relating to the law. a legal discussion 2. according to the law. The contract was legal and binding.
legal aid /ˈliːgl əˈeɪd/ noun financial assistance with legal fees from the government, available to those who cannot afford a lawyer
legal deposit /ˈliːgl ˈdɪpəzɪt/ noun a system that entitles some libraries to receive by law one copy of every book or publication published in that country
legal tender /ˈlɛɡəl ˈtɛndər/ noun coins or notes that are officially part of a country's currency

legend /ˈledʒənd/ noun 1. a caption under a picture or diagram or on a coin or medal 2. an explanation of the symbols on a map or diagram 3. a story based on cultural traditions handed down

legible /ˈlegəbl/ adjective clear enough to be read easily

lemma /ˈlemə/ noun a heading that indicates the topic of a work or passage (NOTE: The plural is lemmata.)

lending library /ˈlending ˈlaɪbrəri/ noun a library which allows users to borrow items as opposed to a purely reference library

lengthen /ˈlɛŋθən/ verb to make something longer

lengthy /ˈlɛŋθi/ adjective lasting for a long time, especially excessively long

lesson /ˈlesən/ noun 1. a period of time used to teach something to an individual or a group 2. a short extract from sacred writings, read aloud during a religious service

let /let/ verb 1. to allow somebody to do something 2. to allow somebody to use something one owns in return for regular payments of rent

Letraset /ˈlɛtərˌset/ a trade name for a system of labelling or captioning documents and illustrations

letter /ˈletər/ noun 1. a piece of writing sent from one person to another usually through the post 2. a symbol used in writing which more or less represents one sound of a language

letterhead /ˈlɛtərˌhed/ noun the name and address of a company or organisation printed at the top of their official notepaper

level /ˈlevəl/ noun a point on a scale indicating amount, importance or difficulty

lexicographer /ˈleksɪkəˌgrɑːfə/ noun a person who writes or edits dictionaries

lexicography /ˌleksɪkəˈgrɑːfi/ noun the activity of writing and editing dictionaries

lexicon /ˈleksɪkən/ noun 1. an alphabetical list of words specifically related to a language or a particular subject 2. a dictionary, especially one of an ancient language such as Latin or Hebrew

liaise /ˈlɪəz/ verb to work together and keep each other informed

liaison /ˈlɪəzn/ noun co-operation and communication between different organisations or sections of an organisation

lib. abbreviation LIBRARIES 1. librarian 2. library

LIBNET /ˈlɪbnɛt/ noun the electronic mail service of the Australian Library and Information Association

librarian /ˈlaɪbrəriən/ noun 1. a person who is in charge of a library 2. a person who has usually been trained in librarianship and who works in a library

librarianship /ˈlaɪbrəriənˌʃɪp/ noun the study of organising and retrieving information so that it is accessible to other people

‘Librarianship is a bipolar profession. On the one hand, librarians are custodians of treasure houses, whose responsibility is for preserving collections of potentially rare, fragile and sometimes unique material can most easily be achieved by keeping people away from it. On the other hand, they are gatekeepers, charged with facilitating the most direct and fruitful access to the information and knowledge contained in their collections to all who may wish to use them.’ [The Times]

library /ˈlaɪbrəri/ noun a collection of books, documents, newspapers and
audiovisual materials kept and organised for people to read or borrow

library and information science

Library and Information Science Abstracts

library assistant

library binding

library card

library edition

library equipment

Library Information Service

library instruction

library licence

library management system

Library of Congress

Library of Congress Catalog

Library of Congress Catalog number

Library of Congress Classification system

Library of Congress' LC number

Library purchase

Library school

library science

library supplier

library supply

library user

library user education

noun a computer system which deals with one or more library processes such as acquisitions, circulation and cataloguing

Library of Congress

Library of Congress Catalog

Library of Congress Catalog number

Library of Congress Classification system

Library of Congress' LC number

Library purchase

Library school

Library science

library supplier

library supply

library user

library user education

noun a course of study that covers all aspects of information and library management, e.g. resources, user services, organisation, evaluation, systems used, policy and representation. Abbr LIS

Library and Information Science Abstracts

noun a UK professional body working to support librarians and information workers. Abbr LA

library binding

library card

library edition

library equipment

Library Information Service

library instruction

library licence

library management system

Library of Congress

Library of Congress Catalog

Library of Congress Catalog number

Library of Congress Classification system

Library of Congress' LC number

Library purchase

Library school

Library science

library supplier

library supply

library user

library user education

noun a ticket which allows the holder to borrow library books

noun a set of books, published in a series, either by a single author or on the same subject and with the same size and format

noun furniture and machinery needed to run a library

noun a service provided by a library to users to answer their questions on any subject. Abbr LIS

noun training in library management techniques

noun a licence granted to a bookshop or to a local authority, allowing books to be bought at a discount for public libraries

noun management of a library more effectively
libretto /ˈlɪbretəʊ/ noun the words of an opera or other vocal musical production

licence /ˈlaɪns/ noun an official document giving permission to use or do something

license /ˈlaɪns/ verb to give official permission for something to happen

life cycle of records /ˌlaɪf ˈsɜːklɪv ˈrekərdz/ noun the creation, storage, retrieval for use, and disposal when no longer needed, of records

light-pen /ˈlaɪtpen/ noun a stylus with a light sensor used to scan barcodes

light-sensitive paper /ˈlaɪt ˈsɛnsɪtɪv ˈpeɪpər/ noun paper that is sensitive to light, usually used for photographs

lightweight /ˈlaɪtwェɪt/ adjective 1. not heavy or thin, lightweight paper 2. not thought to be of a high academic standard

Likert scale /ˈlaɪkɜːrt skɛl/ noun a system of measuring people’s attitudes on a five-point scale, from positive to negative or vice versa

limit /ˈlɪmɪt/ noun a maximum predefined range used to restrict an action or thing a verb to prevent something from becoming bigger

limited /ˈlɪmɪttɪd/ adjective small in amount or degree

limited company /ˈlɪmɪtɪd kəmpəni/ noun a company in which the shareholders are only legally responsible for debts to the amount of their shares if the company goes bankrupt

limited edition /ˈlɪmɪtɪd ɪˈdɪʃən/ noun a work of art such as a book or painting which is only produced in very small numbers

limp /ˈlɪmp/ adjective relating to a book cover that is not stiffened by boards but is made of more durable material than a paperback

limp binding /ˈlɪmp ˈbaɪndɪŋ/ noun a binding style using flexible material usually cheaper than hard boards


Lindop Committee /ˈlɪndəp ˈkoʊˌmiːtɪ/ noun a British government committee which investigated and made recommendations about the security of information on computers in 1978

line /laɪn/ noun 1. a row of words or figures in a text 2. a type of product that a company makes or sells 3. a long piece of wire used to connect communications or a telephone line

linear /ˈlaɪniər/ adjective process in which things always happen one at a time following each other in a set order

line by line index /ˌlaɪn baɪ ˌlaɪn ˈɪndeks/ noun an index with entries consisting of one line only

line drawings /ˈlaɪn ˈdrɔːənz/, line illustrations /ˈlaɪn ɪˈdrəʊʃənəlz/ plural noun illustrations for a book which are drawn with a pen, or have tints, but which do not need to be reproduced as halftones

line editor /ˈlaɪn ˈɛdɪtər/ noun a piece of software that allows the operator to modify one line of text from a file at a time

line management /ˈlaɪn ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ noun a system of management using a hierarchical structure of jobs, so that everyone is responsible to the person immediately above them

line manager /ˈlaɪn ˈmænɪdʒər/ noun a person in a hierarchical structure of management who is responsible for the person or people immediately below

linguistics /ˈlɪŋɡwɪstɪks/ noun the study of language, its history, grammar, structure and use

link /ˈlɪŋk/ noun 1. a relationship between two or more things either by a physical connection or by a common idea which enables them to work together 2. a hypertext connection which allows users to move to another related part of the Internet

link up /ˈlɪŋk ˈʌp/ verb to connect things to each other o This computer can be linked up with others in the network.
link word /ˈlɪŋk wɜːd/ noun a word used in writing or speaking to join ideas or sentences together
Linson /ˈlɪns(ə)n/ a trademark for a strong binding paper which is patterned to resemble cloth
LINUX /ˈlɪnəks/ a trademark for a computer operating system that is a free implementation of the UNIX operating system
LIS abbreviation 1. Library Information Service 2. library and information science
LISA abbreviation Library and Information Science Abstracts
list /ˈlɪst/ noun 1. a series of items written down usually one under the other 2. a catalogue o There is a price list for cars of different ages and models. ■ verb to print or display certain items of information
list of abbreviations /ˈlɪst və ˈrɛbɪˈveɪʃənz/ noun a note in a reference book which lists the abbreviations used and what they stand for, usually printed at the beginning of the text, after the prelims or, in some reference works such as dictionaries, on the endpapers
list owner /ˈlɪst əˈnəʊər/ noun a person who controls an electronic mailing list
list price /ˈlɪst prɑːs/ noun the price of a commodity according to a printed list
LISTSERV /ˈlɪstserv/ noun a very large electronic mailing list manager
literacy /ˈlɪtrəsɪ/ noun the ability to read and write
‘In a withering dossier, chief inspector Graham Donaldson concluded pupils were being failed by poor teachers and weak leadership and that a fifth were leaving school without basic literacy and numeracy skills.’ [Sunday Express]
literal /ˈlɪtrəl/ adjective following the exact meaning of a word or phrase, without any additional meanings ■ noun a mistake made when keyboarding so that characters are transposed
literary /ˈlɪtrəri/ adjective related to literature
literary agent /ˈlɪtrərɪ əˈdʒɛnt/ noun somebody whose job is to negotiate business contracts on behalf of an author
literary forensics /ˈlɪtrərɪ fɔrˈɛnˌskɪz/ noun the scientific examination of documents of disputed authenticity
Literary Marketplace /ˈlɪtrərɪ ˈmɑːrəkˈetplərs/ noun an American publication listing people such as publishers, agents and translators (NOTE: The British equivalent is the Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook.)
literary prize /ˈlɪtrərɪ prɔːz/ noun an award given for a piece of writing judged to have literary value
literate /ˈlɪtrət/ adjective able to read and write
literature /ˈlɪtrətʃər/ noun 1. written works such as novels, plays and poetry, especially those considered to have artistic quality 2. printed information on a specific subject
literature search /ˈlɪtrətʃər ˈsɜːtʃ/ noun a preliminary investigation when studying a subject to find all other related writing
literature survey /ˈlɪtrətʃər ˈsɜːrvɪ/ noun a bibliography listing material on a given subject or sometimes in a given location
lithography /ˌlɪθəˈɡrɑːfi, ˈlɪθəˈɡrɑːfi/ noun a method of printing in which the ink sticks to greasy areas of treated metal, stone or film and is then transferred to paper
COMMENT: Lithography was invented in 1798, by a German artist, Alois Senefelder. It was originally the art of drawing a design on stone in greasy ink, then printing from it. The surface now used is a metal plate, but the principle is the same: this is that a greasy surface attracts ink, while a wet surface repels ink. The design is drawn on the surface with greasy ink, the surface is then rolled with a damp roller to wet it, and then the inking roller passes over it, leaving ink on the parts which are greasy and not leaving ink on those parts which are wet.
Lk abbreviation In Internet addresses, the top-level domain for Sri Lanka
LMS abbreviation learning management system
load /lɔud/ verb to load a file to call a computer file so that it can be seen on screen and worked with
load sharing /lɔud ʃeəring/ noun the process of using more people to even out the workload
loan /lɔn/ noun something that is lent and must be returned a on loan being borrowed a The book is on loan from the library.
loan collection /lɔn ˈkəˌlekʃən/ noun the collection of books and materials available for borrowing, as opposed to a reference collection which cannot be taken away from the library
loan fee /lɔn fi/ noun a sum of money paid to borrow an item
loan period /lɔn ˈpərədi/ noun a period of time before an item that has been borrowed must be returned
LOC abbreviation Library of Congress Catalog number
local /ˈləʊk(ə)/ adjective belonging or relating to the specific area where you live or work
Local Area Network /ˈləʊk(ə)l,ərɪəˈnetwərk/ noun a system linking computers, terminals and printers, within a restricted geographical area, which share the same stored information in the network memory. Abbrev LAN
local collection /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈkəˌlekʃən/ noun books and documents about a specific area close to where the collection is held
local directory /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈdɛərık(ə)ri/ noun a collection of information about businesses and residents in a specified area arranged in alphabetical order of street names and also with classified trade entries
Local Education Authority /ˈləʊk(ə)l əˌdʒuˈkeɪʃən əˈrəʊtɪs/ noun an administrative body which controls the supply of education through schools and colleges in a local area of the UK. Abbrev LEA
local history /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈhɪstərɪ/ noun the history of a small area of a country
local interest title /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈɪntərəst ˈtɪtl/ noun a book which is interesting to people living in a certain area, but less so to anyone else
local map /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈmæp/ noun a map showing the area near to where you live or work
local newspaper /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈnjuːzˌpeɪpər/ noun a newspaper that reports on local events and people
local press /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈpreʃ/ noun newspapers which cover news relevant to a local area and which are printed and sold in one small area of the country
local radio /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈreɪdiəʊ, ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈtɪv/ noun broadcasting stations which concentrate on the news and issues relevant to a small local area
local record office /ˈləʊk(ə)l ˈrekəˌrɪdərɪs/ noun an archive store that keeps information about the particular area in which it is situated
locate /ˈləʊk ˈkərɪt/ verb 1. to place or position something 2. to find something
locator /ˈləʊk ˈkərɪtər/ noun US a device that helps somebody locate something such as a table or index
LOCIS /ˈləʊkɪs/ abbreviation Library of Congress Catalog
lock /lɒk/ verb to fasten something to prevent access a to lock a file to prevent anyone from making changes to a computer file
lockdown /ˈlɒkdaʊn/ noun a procedure that prevents users of a computer network or intruders from the Internet from gaining access to files that are essential to the proper functioning of a computer system
log /lɒg/ verb to record something officially
log book /ˈlɒg bʊk/ noun 1. a book in which entry and departure times to a particular place are recorded 2. a book in which someone writes records of their activities especially related to travelling
logic /ˈlɒdʒɪk/ noun a way of thinking and reasoning which takes account of previous steps
log in /ˈlɒg ˈɪn/, log on /ˈlɒg ˈɒn/ verb to enter a password or code in order to gain entry to a computer system
logistics /lɒgɪstɪks/ plural noun the organisation of something very compli-
conditioned, especially of moving people and things from one place to another

logo /'ləʊɡə/ noun a special design which identifies the products and publicity material of a company or organisation

log off /lɒɡ ˈɒf/ log out /lɒɡ ˈaʊt/ verb to enter data in order to close down and leave a computer system

long-distance /lɒŋ ˈdɪstəns/ adjective relating to journeys, communications or places that are far apart

long loan /lɒŋ ˈloʊn/ noun an extended period for borrowing library items

long-term /lɒŋ ˈtɜːm/ adjective concerning a long period of time: long-term planning. The long-term plans include the development of a music library.

look up /lʊk ˈʌp/ verb to search for information, e.g. by consulting a reference book

look-up /lʊk ˈʌp/ noun a computer procedure in which a term or value is matched against a table of stored information

look-up table /lʊk ˈʌp təˈbl/ noun a collection of stored results that can be accessed very rapidly by a program without the need to calculate each result whenever needed. Abbr LUT

comment: For computer graphics a look-up table may be a table of pixel intensity or colour information which increases the range of values that can be displayed. Since the values are stored in a look-up table they do not have to be computed each time they are called up, and execution time is reduced.

loop /lʊp/ noun a series of actions that are performed repeatedly until the procedure has been completed

loose-leaf /ˈluːs liːf/ adjective having pages which can be removed or replaced

lossless compression /ˈloʊsləs kəmˈpreshən/ noun an image compression technique that can reduce the number of bits used for each pixel in an image without losing any information or sharpness

lossy compression /ˈlɒsɪ ˈkɒmərʃiəl/ noun an image compression technique that can reduce the number of bits used for each pixel in an image, but in doing so lose information

loudspeaker /ˈlaʊdspɪkər/ noun a device that turns electrical signals into recognisable sound

low acid /ˈləʊ ˈæsɪd/ adjective relating to paper that is mildly acidic in composition, but less prone to deterioration than standard acidic paper

lower case /ˈləʊ ˈkeɪs/ adjective relating to small letters such as a, b, c, as opposed to upper case A, B, C

low level language /ˈləʊ ˈlevəl/ noun a computer programming language that is similar to the machine language and difficult for non-expert users to understand

abbreviation in Internet addresses, the top-level domain for Latvia:

LR abbreviation Library of Congress

is abbreviation in Internet addresses, the top-level domain for Lesotho

lt abbreviation in Internet addresses, the top-level domain for Lithuania

lu abbreviation in Internet addresses, the top-level domain for Luxembourg

lunar month /ˈljuːnər ˈmʌnθ/ noun the period of time between one new moon and the next, usually about 28 days

LUT abbreviation look-up table

luxury edition /ˈlʌksəri ˈedɪʃən/ noun an edition printed on fine paper

lyric /ˈlaɪrɪk/ noun a short poem expressing strong feelings in a songlike form