An [acronym](https://www.yourdictionary.com/acronym) is a pronounceable word formed from the first letter (or first few letters) of each word in a phrase or title. The newly combined letters create a new word that becomes a part of everyday language. Using shortened forms of words or phrases can speed up communication. Abbreviations do not usually make up a word that you can say – e.g. etc is an abbreviation for etcetera but no one actually says etc out loud, RSPCA stands for Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals but is not a word. Confusing? Explore this useful shorthand with these examples of acronyms.

* **ASAP -**As Soon As Possible

We have to get to school ASAP!

* **AWOL** - Absent Without Official Leave (or Absent Without Leave)

I don’t know where he went. He’s totally AWOL.

* **LASER** - Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation

Our cat loves to chase a little red LASER beam.

* **PIN -**Personal Identification Number

You’ll need your PIN to use your bank card at the ATM.

* **RADAR** - Radio Detection and Ranging

The police officer used RADAR to catch them speeding.

* **SCUBA** - Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

We gathered our SCUBA gear and dived into the Atlantic.

**DARE -**Drug Abuse Resistance Education

The whole school is doing the DARE program.

* **NASA** - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

We watched the NASA engineer explain how a launch works.

* **NATO** - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Let’s hope NATO always remains intact.

**UNICEF** - The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNICEF appointed a new chairman of the board.

* **GIF -**Graphics Interchange Format

She sent me a GIF of a dancing cat.

* **JPEG - Joint Photographic Experts Group**

You have to attach that photo as a JPEG.

* **RAM -**Random Access Memory

How much RAM does your computer have?

* **SWALK –** sealed with a loving kiss
* **CAB –** Citizens Advice Bureau
* **CAMRA –** Campaign for real ale
* **RADA** – Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts
* **LOL –** laugh out loud

*How many acronyms can you find? I challenge you to find at least 10! Send them into me on the class email –* *marston56@st-peters.notts.sch.uk**. Make sure that you can actually say the word!*