

ARIZONA

— DEPARTMENT OF —

TRANSPORTATION

The graphic and editorial standards guide of the Arizona Department of Transportation



Contents

SECTION 1. Logo Usage, Fonts and Typography

Information regarding how and where ADOT's logo should be used and the fonts allowed in agency documents and publications.

.....	1.1	Logo Usage
.....	1.2	Logo Formats and Secondary Colors
.....	1.3	Fonts and Typography

SECTION 2. Personal Business Cards

Guidelines for ADOT business cards.

.....	2.1	Business Cards
-------	-----	----------------

SECTION 3. Templates

Examples and locations of templates for letterheads, fax covers and presentations.

.....	3.1	Gmail Signatures
.....	3.2	Agency Letterhead
.....	3.3	Memo
.....	3.4	Fax Cover Sheet
.....	3.5	PowerPoint and Google Slides

SECTION 4. Creative Services Products and Google Sites

Information and assets that Creative Services provides to individual projects and the agency as a whole.

.....	4.1	Project Support Assets
.....	4.2	Google Sites

SECTION 5. Editorial Style Guide

Information on spelling, usage and punctuation style that should be used on all agency documents and publications.

.....	5.1	Editorial Style Guide
-------	-----	-----------------------

SECTION 6. Accessibility for Print and Presentation Design

This section provides guidelines and best practices for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for print and presentation design.

.....	6.1	Accessibility
-------	-----	---------------

Questions regarding this guide or its contents?

Please contact ADOT Creative Services.
MD 126F, Room 170
1655 W. Jackson St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Graphics@azdot.gov

1.1 Graphic Standards | Logo Usage



ADOT Logo

In 2024, the state developed a new brand for all state agencies to follow. From the very beginning, there was an incredible vision for the refreshed Arizona brand. Arizona is not just one place or one thing. The designers talked to thousands of Arizonans to understand how Arizona feels to its residents. What colors they see, what patterns they feel and which icons identify the state. The result was an updated logo that captures the amazing diversity of the Arizona experience. This is the preferred logo for the Arizona Department of Transportation.



Previous ADOT Logos

In 2020, the ADOT logo was refreshed, keeping the same graphic but using a bold blue color.

In 2012 and 1999, the ADOT logo was revised to present a modern interpretation of the original logo that focused on the ADOT text element. The purple and teal colors were maintained, the roadway and overpass graphic removed and the letters spaced more closely, leaving a streamlined logo that reinforced ADOT's name recognition while removing the department's immediate association with only roads. This logo should only be used on existing signage and materials.

An earlier version of the ADOT logo from 1999 with a graphic element above the ADOT text depicting a roadway and overpass, is only to be used on existing signage and materials. Do not use just the letters "ADOT" from this graphic, as the spacing is different from the current logo.

Adherence to Graphic Standards

The ADOT logo is the primary graphic element of the ADOT brand. Consistent application and precise production of the logo strengthens and reinforces the Arizona Department of Transportation's identity as well as the public's awareness of and confidence in the agency.

When the logo is used properly with the other elements of the ADOT brand, an effective visual style is established. The logo should never be altered or displayed in any way other than as outlined within this guide.

It is everyone's responsibility to consistently use the ADOT logo and style guidelines, as well as eliminate the potential for misuse or abuse of the agency's identity.

The logo is available to download from both the [internal](#) and [external](#) websites. To request an electronic version of the logo or for information about style issues related to ADOT style guidelines, please contact ADOT Communications and Public Involvement.

1.1 Graphic Standards | Logo Usage



Spacing

In order to maintain its visual integrity, the logo should never appear crowded by text, titles, photographs or other symbols. The logo makes a greater impact when a common clear space is maintained around it.

Always keep space around the logo at least the height of the letters in the word "TRANSPORTATION." You will need to adjust the surrounding space as you increase or decrease the logo size.



Additional Logo Usage Restrictions

Do not use the logo in a sentence, headline or as part of a phrase. Instead, use the word "ADOT" or the words "Arizona Department of Transportation" in the same font as the other words in the sentence, headline or phrase.

- Do not try to capture the logo from the Internet. The official logo is available for download on the [ADOT intranet](#) and [azdot.gov](#). It is also available by request from ADOT Communications available by request to ADOT Communications.
- Do not give the logo any kind of additional graphic effects such as embossing, outlining or shadowing. Do not change the logo's colors in any way.
- Do not bend, stretch or distort the logo.
- Do not change the sizes of different elements of the logo.
- Do not change the font/typeface of the logo.
- Do not change the type spacing of the logo or reposition the elements.
- Do not add any effects to the logo including drop shadows, patterns or 3D shading
- Do not place the white version of the ADOT logo on a light-colored background or area of an image.
- Do not place the ADOT logo on a similarly colored background.

The ADOT logo or any part of the logo should not be incorporated into another logo's design. It can appear in proximity to another logo, to indicate a relationship with ADOT, but a common clear space must be maintained around the ADOT logo at all times as specified in the Spacing section of this guide.

Do not manipulate, separate letters, stretch or distort the logo in any manner. This includes printed and digital applications, signage and facilities construction.



1 inch
minimum width

Size

To maintain visual clarity, a minimum width of 1 inch is preferred for use of the logo. Ensure proportions are consistent and avoid stretching or skewing the logo.

In on-screen uses — web and video — the logo should be at least 72 pixels wide to ensure consistent proportions.



0.5 inch
special instance

In some special instances, spatial limitations dictate that the logo be reproduced at sizes smaller than specified. Such instances may include usage of the logo on jewelry, on pens or pencils or other special requirements. In these rare instances, the logo may be reduced to 0.5 inches.

1.1 Graphic Standards | Logo Usage



Logo Usage

Our color palette is representative of the beautiful hues found in nature across the state.

The primary ADOT logo uses the colors Open Skies Turquoise and Sunrise Copper. (Color spaces can vary and produce differing results, but here is a general guideline for the logo colors):

Color	Open Skies Turquoise	Sunrise Copper
PMS	7716 C	4013 C
CMYK	76 21 46 1	16 67 100 3
RGB	54 153 146	204 108 32
Web/HTML	# 369992	#CC6C20



Additional Logos with Limited Permissions

The secondary logo can be used where a horizontal logo is a better fit.

The tertiary logo may be used on the back of ADOT vehicles.

The square version of the logo is for social media or for use where a small, square version is needed.

Logo: Black and White

In addition to the Open Skies Turquoise and Sunrise Copper colors, the ADOT logo can appear as black or white. If the logo is presented in black or white, it should be 100% black or 0% black (white).

The black logo should be used over colors with contrast value up to 50%. The white logo should be used when the background is darker than 50% in density.

The ADOT logo should not be modified in any way. Avoid any unapproved changes or alterations to fonts, colors, elements or styles.



Contrast values for black logo



Contrast values for white reversed logo

1.2 Graphic Standards | Logo Formats and Secondary Colors



Online Usage

When the logo is used on websites, the logo should link to the ADOT home page (azdot.gov) or a page on the ADOT site appropriate to the usage of the logo.

Logo File Formats

Different file formats for the ADOT logo are available to download from [ADOTNet](#) or [azdot.gov](#). Refer to the table below in choosing the best one for your needs.

Type	Use	Limitations
.jpg	Brochures, web images, PowerPoint	JPEGs are limited in their resolution, which can result in poor-quality reproduction the larger you print.
.png	PowerPoint, web	Works well when you need a transparent background.
.eps	Logos, line art, illustrations	Not intended for photos. Best used when scaling is necessary, especially for logos used in large-format printing. This is a vector file and cannot be viewed by all software.

PINE GREEN



DESERT SAGE



SETTING SUN MAGENTA



WARM SAND



Secondary Color Palette

Secondary colors are used where a different or highlight color is needed in addition to Open Skies Turquoise and Sunrise Copper.

Colortype	Pine Green	Desert Sage	Setting Sun Magenta	Warm Sand
PMS	2427 C	4206 C	689 C	9161 C
CMYK	90 39 100 39	49 14 65 0	47 90 31 10	7 14 40 0
RGB	0 85 40	140 178 123	138 58 109	235 212 163
Web/HTML	#005528	#8CB27B	#8A3A6D	#EBD4A3

1.3 Graphic Standards | Fonts and Typography

Use Lexend for headlines and Archivo for body text for use in any designed materials. These fonts are free and available to download via [Google fonts](#). Arial can be used if Lexend and Archivo are not available.

Fonts and Typography

Lexend Regular

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
0123456

Lexend Bold

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
0123456

Archivo Regular

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
0123456

Archivo Light

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
0123456

Additional guidance on State brand fonts and colors can be found in the State [Branding Guide Accessibility Supplement](#).

2.1 Graphic Standards | Business Cards

Business Cards

Business cards should be ordered through your administrative services officer (ASO).



3.1 Templates | Gmail Signature

ADOT GMAIL SIGNATURE

[You will need to access this Google doc to update your Gmail signature.](#)

From your Gmail Inbox, click the Gear icon in the top right corner.

Select See all settings from the drop-down menu.

Scroll down to the Signature: section.

Click the + Create new box; Name your new signature and click Create.

(Note: Creating a new signature is important. Pasting over your old signature tends to be problematic as the Gmail signature box will retain some of the old formatting, which usually messes it up.)

Select and copy the signature below from this page (both the logo and the text). The selection should look like blue boxes.

Go back to your newly created signature box and paste. It is recommended to use the Ctrl + V keys and, of course, add your information. Be sure to use all caps and upper & lower case as the sample shows. The copied text should retain the Montserrat typeface. (Center the logo vertically so it has equal space top and bottom in the table cell.)

Go to Signature defaults (immediately below the + Create new box) to be sure that your newly created email signature is selected for use for both “FOR NEW EMAILS USE” and “ON REPLY/FORWARD USE”

Scroll to the very bottom and click Save Changes.

Now click + Compose back in your email Inbox and marvel at your new email signature!

Example of Gmail signature:



Jerry Puett

Equipment Shop Supervisor

EQUIPMENT SERVICES

3540 East Andy Devine Ave.

Kingman AZ 86401

928.681.6211 | azdot.gov

3.1 Templates | Gmail Signature

Gmail Signature Settings For Mobile

For those with a work cell phone, when using the Gmail app to send emails, there are two signature settings — mobile and web. Set the signature settings to use the “web” signature so it will replicate our new logo signature.

Instructions:

1. In the Gmail App on your phone, go to the 3 bars on top left.
2. Scroll to bottom and select Settings.
3. In the Compose and Reply section, select Signature settings
4. Turn off Mobile signature so the Web signature is used

Older iPhones:

1. In the Gmail App on your phone, go to the 3 bars on top left.
2. Scroll to bottom and select Settings.
3. Click on your name in Settings
4. Scroll to Signature settings
5. Turn off Mobile Signature
6. (Your signature will be added to your message after you send it.)

Example of Gmail signature:



Jerry Puett

Equipment Shop Supervisor
EQUIPMENT SERVICES

3540 East Andy Devine Ave.
Kingman AZ 86401
928.681.6211 | azdot.gov

Gmail Signature for ADOT Consultants

Consultants for ADOT should include a line under their title, matching the title's font, size and weight that reads, “Consultant to ADOT.”



Jerry Puett

Equipment Shop Supervisor
Consultant to ADOT
EQUIPMENT SERVICES

3540 East Andy Devine Ave.
Kingman, AZ 86401
928.681.6211 | azdot.gov

3.2 Templates | Agency Letterhead

ADOT employees can access the Word document [ADOT letterhead](#) online at ADOTNet or use the editable [Google Document](#). On the letterhead, double-click in the address area in the top header to update the address to yours. Only the Governor and Director's names go in the upper right. There is no custom letterhead for divisions.



The image shows a placeholder for an ADOT letterhead template. It features the ADOT logo (a stylized 'AZ' with mountains) and the text 'ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'. On the right, there are fields for 'Address Line 1' and 'City, State ZIP'. Below these are the names 'KATIE HOBBS' (Governor) and 'JENNIFER TOTH' (Director). The main body of the template is a blank white area where content can be typed.

Mo., Day, Year

FirstName LastName
Job Title
Company/Agency Name
Address Line 1
City, State ZIP

Subject: Subject Title

Dear Ms./Mrs./Mr. LastName:

The opening paragraph should usually consist of an introduction (if necessary) and a brief explanation of the letter's intent. Use 11-pt. Arial font.

Please type in this section the primary composition of your business letter. Although this is a single field, you may press ENTER twice to begin a new paragraph. Please adhere to ADOT's editorial style guide.

Use this field for the final paragraph of your business letter. Reiterate the objective of the letter, and express what you expect the next action to be (e.g., a call, an action, etc.). Thank the recipient for their attention to your message.

(Double click on the header to edit address text.)

Sincerely,

[Delete this text before printing, and sign here.]

FirstName LastName
Job Title

Enclosures (#)

3.3 Templates | Memo

ADOT employees can access the Word document [Memo](#) online at ADOTNet or use the editable [Google Document](#).

 ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	Address Line 1 City, State ZIP	KATIE HOBBS GOVERNOR JENNIFER TOTH DIRECTOR
MEMORANDUM		
TO:	Name of primary recipient(s)	
FROM:	Name of Sender(s)	
CC:	Name of ancillary recipient(s)	
DATE:	Mon. Day, Year	
RE:	The subject of the memo	
<hr/> <p>Type the body of the memo into this field. Be brief. If the content requires paragraph breaks, press ENTER twice to separate the paragraphs.</p> <p>Edit the address in the header by double-clicking it.</p>		

3.4 Templates | Fax Cover

ADOT employees can access the Word document [Fax cover sheet](#) online at ADOTNet or use the editable [Google Document](#).

 ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	Address Line 1 City, State ZIP	KATIE HOBBS GOVERNOR JENNIFER TOTH DIRECTOR
FAX COVER SHEET		
DATE: MON. DAY, YEAR TO: FirstName LastName FAX: 555.555.5555 PHONE: 555.555.5556		

To edit the address in the header, double click it.

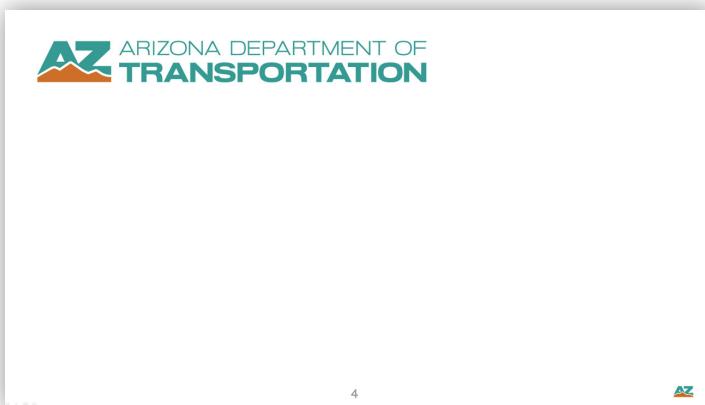
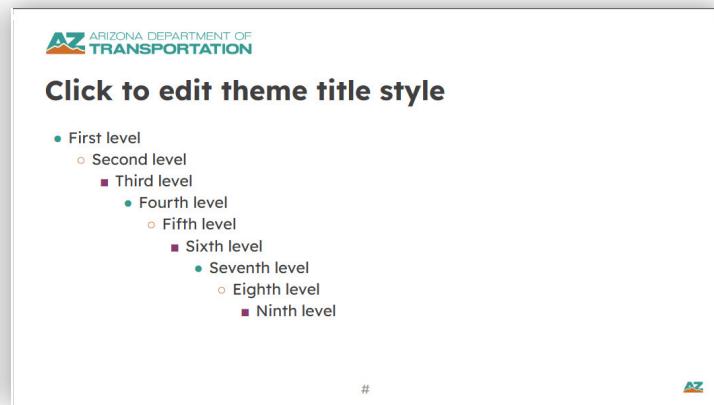
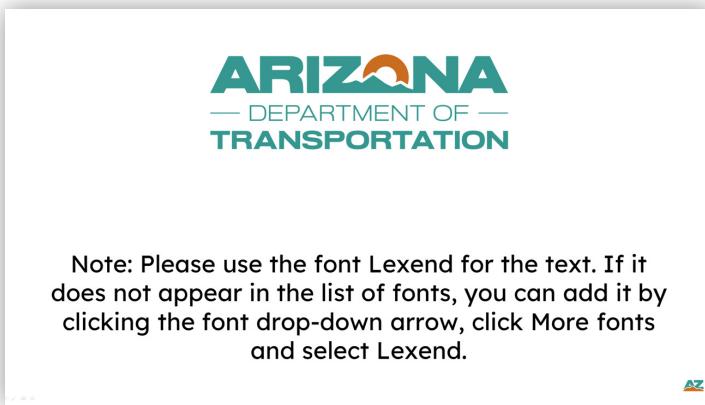
3.5 Templates | Google Slides and PowerPoint

Style 1: White background, primary ADOT logo

Google Slides: ADOT employees can download the [Google Slides template with white background](#). Accessing link will enable a copy to be made for your edits.

PowerPoint: ADOT employees can download the [ADOT PowerPoint template with white background](#).

Transparent PNG graphics work best with these templates.



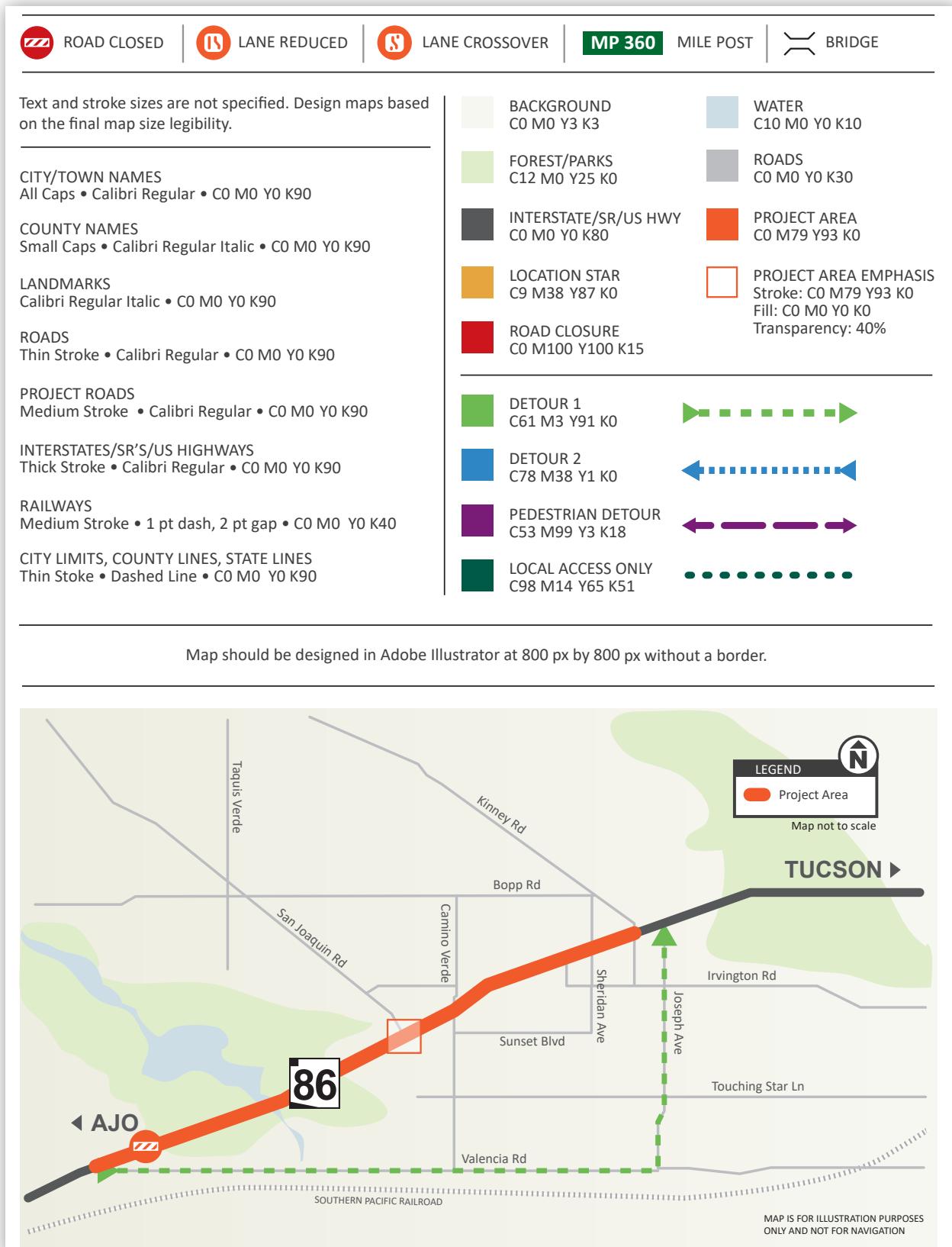
Additional ADOT Google Slides templates using the state brand colors are available on ADOTNet. Make a copy by clicking these links:

- [Desert Sage](#)
- [Warm Sand](#)
- [Open Skies Turquoise](#)
- [Setting Sun Magenta](#)
- [Pine Green](#)

Cover Title	Lexend 42 pt. Bold
Cover Title Line 2	Lexend 24 pt.
Slide Title	Lexend 28 pt. Black

4.1 Project Support Assets | Illustrations

When creating maps and other illustrations, refer to this page for coloring and labeling. To ensure accessibility, when two or more detours occur on one map, please use a different patterned dashed line rather than just a different color.

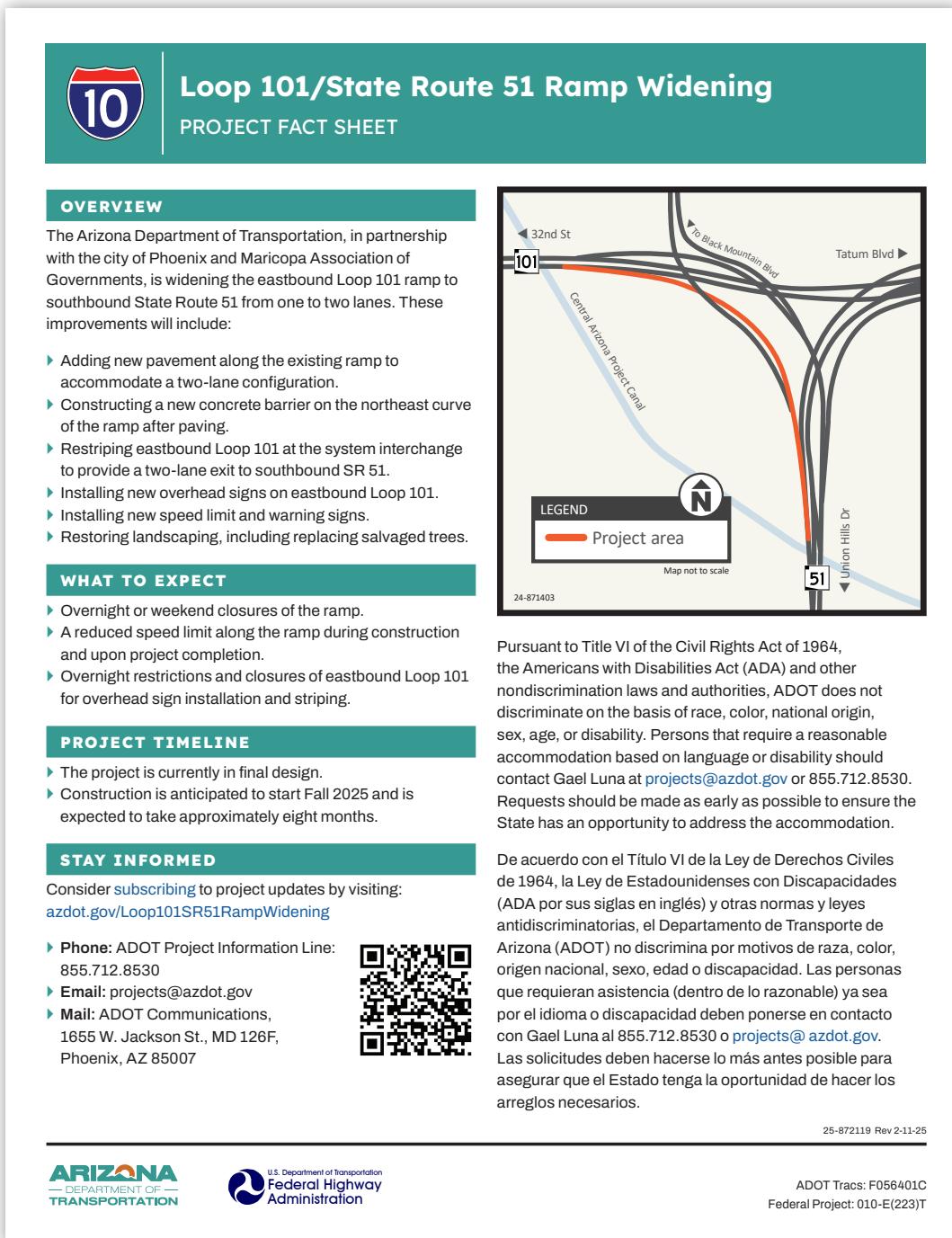


4.1 Project Support Assets | Sample Flyer

Based on Flyer Style, when using multiple columns, section headers will be used.

Section Header	Section Text
Font:	Lexend
Style:	Bold, +75 Tracking
Size:	12 pt.
	Archivo
	Regular
	10 pt.

Two columns will use a Section Header 0.25" x 3.8"



Loop 101/State Route 51 Ramp Widening
PROJECT FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

The Arizona Department of Transportation, in partnership with the city of Phoenix and Maricopa Association of Governments, is widening the eastbound Loop 101 ramp to southbound State Route 51 from one to two lanes. These improvements will include:

- Adding new pavement along the existing ramp to accommodate a two-lane configuration.
- Constructing a new concrete barrier on the northeast curve of the ramp after paving.
- Restriping eastbound Loop 101 at the system interchange to provide a two-lane exit to southbound SR 51.
- Installing new overhead signs on eastbound Loop 101.
- Installing new speed limit and warning signs.
- Restoring landscaping, including replacing salvaged trees.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Overnight or weekend closures of the ramp.
- A reduced speed limit along the ramp during construction and upon project completion.
- Overnight restrictions and closures of eastbound Loop 101 for overhead sign installation and striping.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- The project is currently in final design.
- Construction is anticipated to start Fall 2025 and is expected to take approximately eight months.

STAY INFORMED

Consider [subscribing](#) to project updates by visiting: azdot.gov/Loop101SR51RampWidening

- Phone:** ADOT Project Information Line: 855.712.8530
- Email:** projects@azdot.gov
- Mail:** ADOT Communications, 1655 W. Jackson St., MD 126F, Phoenix, AZ 85007



Map



Map not to scale
24-871403

DISCLAIMER

Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other nondiscrimination laws and authorities, ADOT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons that require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact Gael Luna at projects@azdot.gov or 855.712.8530. Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the State has an opportunity to address the accommodation.

De acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA por sus siglas en inglés) y otras normas y leyes antidiscriminatorias, el Departamento de Transporte de Arizona (ADOT) no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad o discapacidad. Las personas que requieran asistencia (dentro de lo razonable) ya sea por el idioma o discapacidad deben ponerse en contacto con Gael Luna al 855.712.8530 o projects@azdot.gov. Las solicitudes deben hacerse lo más antes posible para asegurar que el Estado tenga la oportunidad de hacer los arreglos necesarios.

25-872119 Rev 2-11-25

Logos

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

ADOT Tracs: F056401C
Federal Project: 010-E(223)T

4.1 Project Support Assets | Postcard

Based on Flyer Style, when using multiple columns, section headers will be used. Size can vary depending upon the amount of content. This example is 11 x 6" in English and Spanish.

Section Header	Section Text
Font: Lexend	Archivo
Style: Bold, +75 Tracking	Regular
Size: 12 pt.	10 pt.

I-10/Jackrabbit Trail Traffic Interchange
JOIN ADOT FOR A VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING ON JAN. 23, 2024

OVERVIEW
The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will host a virtual public meeting on Jan. 23 to present the preliminary design for the I-10/Jackrabbit Trail traffic interchange. Planned improvements include:

- Reconstructing the existing traffic interchange to include traffic signals.
- Widening the interchange ramps to provide additional turn lanes.
- Removing and reconstructing the existing bridges over Jackrabbit Trail to accommodate the new traffic interchange lane configuration.
- Widening Jackrabbit Trail to three lanes in each direction.

MEETING DETAILS
Jan. 23, 2024 | 6:7:30 p.m.
The project team will give a presentation about the design, followed by a Q&A session.
The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.
REGISTER TO JOIN ONLINE: azdot.gov/JackrabbitMtg
JOIN BY PHONE: 669.444.9171 | Webinar ID: 951 5167 6868 | Participant ID: 264911
Can't Attend? The meeting presentation will be posted to the project website.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
Project comments can be provided through Feb. 7 in the following ways:

- Online Comment Form: azdot.gov/i10JackrabbitComments
- Phone: 623.695.7411
- Email: NGBecerra@azdot.gov
- Mail: ADOT Communications, 1655 W. Jackson St., MD 126F, Phoenix, AZ 85007

MORE INFORMATION/EMAIL LIST
Visit azdot.gov/i10Jackrabbit for more information and to subscribe for email updates.

ADOT Tracs: 010 MA 121 F0486 01L 23-839194

Intercambio de tráfico I-10/Jackrabbit Trail
ÚNASE A NUESTRA REUNIÓN PÚBLICA VIRTUAL ENERO 23, 2024

DESCRIPCIÓN GENERAL
El Departamento de Transporte de Arizona (ADOT) te invita a una reunión pública virtual el 23 de enero para presentar el diseño preliminar del intercambio de tráfico I-10/Jackrabbit Trail. Las mejoras planificadas incluyen:

- Reconstruir el intercambio de tráfico con semáforos.
- Ampliar las rampas de intercambio para proporcionar carriles de vuelta adicionales.
- Retirar y reconstruir los puentes existentes sobre Jackrabbit Trail para acomodar la nueva configuración de carriles de tráfico.
- Ampliar Jackrabbit Trail a tres carriles en cada dirección.

DETALLES DE LA REUNIÓN
Enero 23, 2024 | 6:7:30 p.m.
El equipo del proyecto hará una presentación sobre el diseño, seguida por una sesión de preguntas y respuestas.
La reunión tomará a cabo virtualmente por Zoom.
REGISTRESE PARA UNIRSE POR INTERNET: azdot.gov/JackrabbitMtg
ÚNETE POR TELÉFONO: 669.444.9171 | ID de la reunión: 948 3052 6118 | ID del participante: 264911
¿No puedes asistir? La presentación se publicará en el sitio web del proyecto.

PREGUNTAS/COMENTARIOS
Comentarios sobre el proyecto se pueden proporcionar hasta el 7 de febrero:

- Formulario de comentarios: azdot.gov/i10JackrabbitComments
- Teléfono: 623.695.7411
- Correo electrónico: NGBecerra@azdot.gov
- Correo: ADOT Communications, 1655 W. Jackson St., MD 126F, Phoenix, AZ 85007

MÁS INFORMACIÓN
Visite azdot.gov/i10Jackrabbit para obtener más información y suscribirse para recibir actualizaciones del proyecto por correo electrónico.

ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

1655 W. Jackson St., MD 126F | Phoenix, AZ 85007

I-10 Jackrabbit Trail Interchange
/Intercambio de Tráfico I-10
Jackrabbit Trail

Join us for a virtual public
meeting on Jan. 23, 2024/Únase
a nuestra reunión pública virtual
enero 23, 2024

MAPA
197th Ave | 192nd Ave | McDowell Rd | 187th Ave
McDowell Rd | 197th Ave | 192nd Ave | 187th Ave
Jackrabbit Tr | BUCKEYE | Van Buren St
LEGENDA/LEYENDA
■■■ Project Area/Área del proyecto
MAP NOT TO SCALE

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX, AZ
PERMIT NO. 373

Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other nondiscrimination laws and authorities, ADOT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons that require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact Nancy Becerra at 623.695.7411 or NGBecerra@azdot.gov. Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the State has an opportunity to address the accommodation.

De acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA por sus siglas en inglés) y otras normas y leyes antidiscriminatorias, el Departamento de Transporte de Arizona (ADOT) no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad o discapacidad. Las personas que requieren asistencia (dentro de lo razonable) ya sea por el idioma o discapacidad deben ponerse en contacto con Nancy Becerra a 623.695.7411 ó NGBecerra@azdot.gov. Las solicitudes deben hacerse lo más temprano posible para asegurar que el Estado tenga la oportunidad de hacer los arreglos necesarios.

4.2 Project Support Assets | Google Sites

It is preferred that the ADOT Web Team create pages on ADOTNet for your content, but in some cases, groups may want to create and maintain their own Google site and have it linked to ADOTNet. If this is the case, please follow these guidelines:

- Include the name of the site administrator at the bottom of the home page with their contact info and division.
- Do not locate this site in your own Google Drive/MyDrive. Be sure it is located in a Google Shared Drive.
- Share edit access with another ADOT employee.
- Google sites must meet ADA accessibility standards.
- Google sites must follow ADOT and State of Arizona Branding standards.
- For content and data owned by another group or division, obtain their permission to use it on a Google Site prior to publishing.

ARIZONA

— DEPARTMENT OF —

TRANSPORTATION

The editorial standards guide of the Arizona Department of Transportation



SECTION 5. Editorial Style Guide

- 5.1 Introduction to the Editorial Style Guide
- 5.2 Editorial Style
- 5.3 Punctuation Review
- 5.4 Appendix: Research Center Style
- 6.1 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for
PowerPoint/Google Slide presentations for
public meetings (in-person and virtual)

5.1 Editorial Style Guide | Introduction

ADOT's editorial style guide is a living document and may be amended based on necessity. If you would like to see an alteration made to the style guide, please submit a written request, which should include a justification and source(s) for the alteration, to Internal Communications (InsideLane@azdot.gov). Please note that submitting a request does not guarantee the desired alteration will be approved. The following guidelines delineate editorial style policies that apply to the entire Arizona Department of Transportation. The main sources for this style guide are the [Associated Press Stylebook](#), the [Style Manual for AASHTO Publications](#) and the [Merriam-Webster Dictionary](#). Refer to these sources if a language question is not answered here. Style guide entries are arranged alphabetically. The formatting is explained below.

Example Entry

dates. Always use Arabic figures with st, nd, rd or th. Do not superscript ordinals: 5th of November. Abbreviate these months: Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.

GENERAL FORMATTING. Month Day, Year: Jan. 15, 1949. Month Day: Jan. 15. Month Year: January 1949. Do not include ordinal indicators when the day comes after the month.

Entry Font Explanation Guide

Bold Archivo type indicates correct capitalization, italicization, abbreviation and punctuation of entries.

Time New Roman (serif font) type shows examples of correct and incorrect usage.

BOLD, CAPS ARCHIVO type indicates a subheading under a main entry.

Entries are arranged alphabetically. If you would like to visit a specific entry, search the document by pressing CTRL + F and entering an appropriate search term.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

A

a, an. Use the article *a* before consonant sounds: a historic event, a one-year term, a united stand. Use the article *an* before vowel sounds: an energy crisis, an honorable person, an NBA record, an 1890s celebration.

abbreviations. Most two-letter abbreviations will take periods.

BEFORE A NAME. Abbreviate titles when used before a full name: Dr., Gov., Ms., Sen.

AFTER A NAME. Abbreviate *junior* and *senior* after an individual's name, setting it apart with commas: John Jacob, Jr., is old. Abbreviate *company*, *corporation*, *incorporated* and *limited* when used after the name of a corporate entity. In some cases, an academic degree may be abbreviated after an individual's name: House, M.D.

FIRST AND SECOND REFERENCE. Most names should not be abbreviated on the first reference. Refer to the most recent AP Stylebook for specific instances.

WITH DATES OR NUMERALS. Use *A.D.* (A.D. 2012), *B.C.* (567 B.C.), *a.m.* (7:30 a.m.), *p.m.* (7 p.m.) and *No.* (No. 2). Abbreviate these months: Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. Spell out all other months. Spell out all months appearing alone or with a year alone. Do not separate the month and the year with a comma: January 1972 was a cold month.

INITIALS. Separate partial initials with periods and no space: W.C. Fields.

STATES. Spell out state names when they stand alone in textual material. These states are always spelled out, regardless of context: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas and Utah. When in conjunction with a city name in text and datelines, and in short-form party affiliation, use these abbreviations (postal codes in parentheses for clarity): Ala. (AL), Ariz. (AZ), Ark. (AR), Calif. (CA), Colo. (CO), Conn. (CT), Del. (DE), Fla. (FL), Ga. (GA), Ill. (IL), Ind. (IN), Kan. (KS), Ky. (KY), La. (LA), Md. (MD), Mass. (MA), Mich. (MI), Minn. (MN), Miss. (MS), Mo. (MO), Mont. (MT), Neb. (NE), Nev. (NV), N.H. (NH), N.J. (NJ), N.M. (NM), N.Y. (NY), N.C. (NC), N.D. (ND), Okla. (OK), Ore. (OR), Pa. (PA), R.I. (RI), S.C. (SC), S.D. (SD), Tenn. (TN), Vt. (VT), Va. (VA), Wash. (WA), W.Va. (WV), Wis. (WI) and Wyo. (WY).

YEARS. Use figures without commas: 1912. When a phrase refers to a month, day and year, set off the year with a comma: February 14, 1912, was the first day of Arizona's statehood. Use an *s* without an apostrophe to indicate spans of decades or centuries: the 1960s, the 1900s. Years are the lone exception to the general rule in numerals that a figure is not used to start a sentence. Use an apostrophe to show omitted numerals in a year: '60s, '75.

academic degrees. Use an apostrophe and an *s* for general degrees: bachelor's degree, master's degree. (Exception: associate degree.) Do not use a possessive for full degree names: Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science. When used after a name, an academic abbreviation is set off by commas: Jane Smith, Ph.D., spoke; John Doe, M.A. Curriculum, wrote.

acronyms. Most acronyms, especially those that are longer than two letters, will not take periods. Check the 2021 AP Stylebook for specific instances. Refer to the [ADOT Acronyms and Abbreviations Guide](#) for agency specific acronyms.

A.D. Use instead of **C.E.** Include the periods.

addresses. Capitalize and use these abbreviations only with numbered addresses: Ave., Blvd., Dr., Ln., Pkwy., Rd. and St. Spell out these abbreviations and capitalize when part of a formal street name without a number: Pennsylvania Avenue. Never abbreviate these street designations, but capitalize them with numbered addresses and formal street names without numbers: alley, circle, highway, route, way and terrace. Spell out and lowercase street designations when used alone or with more than one street name: Massachusetts and Pennsylvania avenues. Abbreviate compass points used to indicate directions or quadrants of a city in a numbered address: 1655 W. Jackson St. No periods for quadrant abbreviations: NW, SE. Do not abbreviate if the number is omitted: West Jackson Street. Do not use the periods for any abbreviations in maps and graphics.

ADOT CONTACTS, IN-LINE. Title Name, Phone number. District Engineer Josefina Mendez, 602.555.1009.

ADOT CONTACTS, VERTICAL. Name [soft return] Title [soft return] Mail Drop/Suite/Room [soft return] Street address [soft return] City, State ZIP code [soft return] Phone: Number [soft return] Fax: Number. Online, names should be hyperlinked to that person's email address. Only include the information that is available or pertinent.

Josefina Mendez
District Engineer
MD 305
1655 W. Jackson St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: 602.555.1009

Adopt a Highway program. Preferred capitalization.

adviser. Not *advisor*.

affect, effect. *Affect* is the verb; *effect* is usually the noun.

African American, black. Acceptable for an American black person of African descent. The terms are not necessarily interchangeable. People from Caribbean nations, for example, generally refer to themselves as Caribbean American. Follow a person's preference.

afterward. Not *afterwards*.

age. Always use figures: You must be 16 to earn a driver license. Use hyphens for ages expressed as adjectives before a noun or as substitutes for a noun: a 5-year-old boy and a 5-year-old, but the boy is 5 years old.

air entraining (n.), air-entraining (adj.). Preferred constructions.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

air hole. Two words.

all right. Not *alright*.

alloy steel (n.), alloy-steel (adj.). Preferred constructions.

alphabetization. Use the word-by-word system for alphabetizing lists. Take spaces and hyphens into account.

AM, FM. The radio broadcast frequencies; no periods.

ambient temperature (n.), ambient-temperature (adj.). Preferred constructions.

amendment, Amendment. General amendments are lowercase; capitalize in reference to specific amendments to the U.S. Constitution: First Amendment, 10th Amendment.

among, between. Most of the time, *between* introduces a relationship between two items, and *among* introduces the relationship among three or more items. However, *between* is also correct when expressing the relationships of three or more items considered one pair at a time: Negotiation on a debate format are under way between the network and the Ford, Carter and McCarthy committees.

Arabic names. Arabic names with the article “al,” lowercase the article and connect it to the name with a hyphen.

Arab Americans. No hyphen for this and other dual-heritage names.

Arizona Department of Transportation, ADOT. Spell out full name in first reference (exception: blog and social media posts, which are less formal). Use *ADOT* in second reference. Departing from AP style, capitalize *Agency* or *Department* as alternates for ADOT: The Agency is committed to safety.

Arizona Highways magazine. Preferred construction. Do not capitalize magazine. Do not italicize.

as well as. Does not mean *and*. And joins two elements of equal importance, but “as well as” places more emphasis on one of the elements. My cat, as well as my dog, brings me toys to throw.

at grade (n.), at-grade (adj.). Preferred constructions.

ax. Not *axe*.

B

backfill. One word.

backward. Not *backwards*.

bankfull. One word.

B.C. Use instead of *B.C.E.* Include the periods.

because, since. Use *because* to denote a specific causal relationship: The roof is rotting because there is a leak. *Since* is only acceptable in a causal sense when the first event in a sequence led logically to the second but was not its direct cause: They went to the game since they had been given tickets.

bedbug. Preferred spelling.

bevel (n., v.), beveled (adj.). Preferred constructions.

bidirectional. One word.

Black, African American. Acceptable for an American black person of African descent. The terms are not necessarily interchangeable. Uppercase *Black* in reference to the race.

bloc, block. A *bloc* refers to a coalition of people, groups or nations with the same purpose or goal; *block* does not.

bolthead. One word.

bolthole. One word.

bolt tension (n.), bolt-tension (adj.). Preferred constructions.

bull's-eye. Preferred construction.

bus, buses. Preferred plural spelling.

bushhammer. One word.

C

cactus, cacti. Preferred plural spelling.

cancel, canceled, canceling, cancellation. Preferred spellings.

Capitol. Capitalize *U.S. Capitol* and the *Capitol* when referring to the building in Washington: The meeting was held on Capitol Hill in the west wing of the Capitol. Follow the same practice when referring to state capitols: The Virginia Capitol is in Richmond. Thomas Jefferson designed the Capitol of Virginia.

capitalization. Capitalize proper nouns: John, Capitol Hill, General Electric. Capitalize common nouns like *party, river, street* and *west* when they are an integral part of the full name for a person, place or thing: Republican Party, Colorado River, Central Avenue. Lowercase these common nouns when they stand alone in subsequent references: the party, the river, the avenue. Lowercase these common noun elements of names in plural uses: the Democratic and Republican parties, Main and State streets, lakes Erie and Ontario. Exception: plurals of formal titles with full names are capitalized: Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

COMPOSITION TITLES. Capitalize the principal words, including prepositions and conjunctions of four or more letters. Capitalize articles (i.e., *the*, *a*, *an*) or words of fewer than four letters if it is the first or last word in a title or subtitle: “The Hunger Games,” “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone.”

PERSONAL TITLES. Capitalize formal titles when used immediately before a name. Lowercase formal titles when used alone or in constructions that set them off from a name by commas. Use lowercase at all times for terms that are job descriptions rather than formal titles.

cause and effect (n.), cause-and-effect (adj.). Preferred construction: the cause and effect of the argument; a cause-and-effect relationship.

celestial bodies. Capitalize the proper names of planets, stars, constellations, etc.: Mars, Arcturus, Earth. *See entries for earth, sun and moon for more information.*

centerbeam. One word.

Chicano, Hispanic, Latino, Mexican-American. These terms have distinct meanings that can vary depending on individual preferences. When possible, use a more specific identifier like *Puerto Rican*, *El Salvadoran* or *Mexican-American*. Avoid using *Chicano* interchangeably with *Mexican-American*. The use of *Chicano*, *Hispanic* and *Latino* should be consistent.

child care. Two words, no hyphen in all cases.

city, town. Departing from AP style, capitalize city or town before place name when the terms are needed for clarity or are part of a quote: City of Maricopa, Town of Queen Creek. When referring to a state with a municipality, separate with a comma and follow the state name with a comma unless it ends a sentence: Park City, Utah, is cool and pretty.

clean up (v.), cleanup (n., adj.). Preferred constructions. We cleaned up the park. The cleanup crew was an hour early.

cofferdam. One word.

cold-draw (v.). Hyphenate.

cold-finish (v.). Hyphenate.

cold flow (n.). Two words.

cold-forge (v.). Hyphenate.

cold-form (v.). Hyphenate.

cold-roll (v.). Hyphenate.

cold-swage (v.). Hyphenate.

cold weather (n.), cold-weather (adj.). Preferred constructions.

Collector-Distributor (CD) roads.

collective nouns. Singular collective nouns take singular verbs: The flock of geese is noisy. Plural collective nouns take plural verbs: The classes are settling their rivalry with a game of Jeopardy.

PLURAL IN FORM. Some words that are plural in form become collective nouns and take singular verbs when the group or quantity is regarded as a unit. Right: A thousand bushels is a good yield. (A unit.)

Right: A thousand bushels were created. (Individual items.)

common names. Lowercase common names of plants and animals: monarch butterfly, basset hound. Capitalize names derived from proper nouns and adjectives: English bulldog, Boston terrier.

community. Limit the use of the word, community, in reference to groups of people.

company and product names. On first reference, precede the name of a product with the company name, but do not include the company name in subsequent uses. In general, follow the spelling and capitalization preferred by the company: eBay, YouTube. However, do not capitalize all the letters unless each letter is pronounced individually: BMW is okay; Ikea, not IKEA. Also, do not use symbols such as exclamation points, plus signs or asterisks that form contrived spellings that might confuse readers: Yahoo, not Yahoo!; Toys R Us, not Toys “R” Us; E-Trade, not E*Trade. Do not use a comma before *Inc.* or *Ltd.*, even if it is included in the formal name.

compass points. For references to compass points, follow these guidelines.

ADDRESSES. Capitalize and abbreviate in a specific address: 42 N. Roosevelt. Capitalize and spell out when the address does not include a number: North Roosevelt.

DIRECTIONS. Lowercase when the meaning of the direction is general: Drive north until you reach the SR 87.

REGIONS. Capitalize when the meaning is specific and the region is defined by common culture, language or people: *The Southwest* has wonderful weather. Capitalize these state regions: Northern Arizona, Southern Arizona, Eastern Arizona and Western Arizona (general and specific to center areas); Central Arizona (*when Phoenix area won't suffice*); Western Arizona, Northwestern Arizona, Southwestern Arizona, Southeastern Arizona, Northeastern Arizona. Capitalize these areas of the Valley: East Valley, West Valley, Southeast Valley, Northeast Valley, Northwest Valley, Southwest Valley. Use specifics (south Phoenix, Ahwatukee, Gila River Indian Community) rather than South Valley.

complement, compliment. A *complement* completes something else. A *compliment* is an expression of praise.

constant amplitude (n.), constant-amplitude (adj.). Preferred constructions.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

constitution, Constitution. Lowercase for general use and in reference to a state constitution without using the full, proper title. Capitalize when referring to the U.S. Constitution or the Arizona State Constitution.

coplanar. No hyphen.

copper alloy (n.), copper-alloy (adj.). Preferred constructions.

council, counsel. A *council* is a group of leaders. To *counsel* is to advise.

Council of Governments, COG. Preferred capitalization.

countersink (n., v.). No hyphen.

county. Capitalize when an integral part of a proper name: Maricopa County. Lowercase in *county of* phrases: county of Pinal.

co-worker. Preferred spelling.

cross section (n.), cross-section (v.), cross-sectional (adj.). Preferred constructions.

currency. Use \$ to report U.S. dollar amounts and € for euros. For all other currencies, following the amount, spell out the name of the currency followed in parentheses by the equivalent in U.S. dollars: Japan approved a 1.8 trillion yen (\$18 billion) extra budget to partially finance an economic stimulus package. When dealing with a dollar currency of a country other than the United States, reference the most recent AP Stylebook for the proper abbreviations and format.

cut off (v.), cutoff (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

Cyber- Use sparingly. When necessary to use, follow the general rule for prefixes, which calls for no hyphen in most cases. For example, *cyberbullying*, *cybersecurity*, *cyberattack*, *cyberspace*. But *Cyber Monday*, *cyber shopping*.

D

data. The word typically takes singular verbs and pronouns when writing for general audiences and in data journalism contexts: *The data is sound*. In scientific and academic writing, plural verbs and pronouns are preferred. Use *databank* and *database*, but *data processing* (n. and adj.) and *data center*.

dates. Always use Arabic figures with *st*, *nd*, *rd* or *th*. Do not superscript ordinals: 5th of November. Abbreviate these months: Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.

GENERAL FORMATTING. Month Day, Year: Jan. 15, 1949. Month Day: Jan. 15. Month Year: January 1949. Do not include ordinal indicators when the day comes after the month.

A.D./B.C. Do not use *B.C.E./C.E.* *A.D.* goes before the date; *B.C.* goes after the date: A.D. 1290; 500 B.C. All dates not designated B.C. are assumed to be A.D.

TRAFFIC ALERTS. Two lines. First line: Direction, roadway, type of restriction (closed, restricted), location (between Point A and Point B), times and dates, reason. Second line: Detour: Example: Northbound Interstate 17 closed between Lee Road and Hall Street from 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, to 5 a.m. Monday, Feb. 20, for pavement repair. Detour: Exit Lee Road to northbound President Street and have a good time.

daylight saving time. Not *savings*. No hyphen.

day care. Two words. No hyphen in all uses.

dead load (n.), dead-load (adj.). Preferred constructions.

deaf. Describes a person with total or major hearing loss. For others, use *partial hearing loss* or *partially deaf*. Some object to the term *hearing-impaired*; try to determine an individual's preference. Do not use *deaf and dumb* or *deaf-mute*.

debond. One word.

decision making (n.), decision-making (adj.). Preferred constructions: Decision making can be fun. The decision-making process is simple.

deice, deicing. One word.

delaminate. One word.

desilverize. One word.

Design-Build (DB).

detensioning. One word.

descendant. Preferred spelling as both a noun and an adjective.

despite, in spite of. They mean the same thing. Prefer former.

different from, differ with. Not *different than*. To *differ from* means to be *unlike*. To *differ with* means to *disagree*.

Developer. (For the Broadway Curve project, referring to Flatiron, Pulice, FNF developers)

disabled, handicapped, impaired. In general, do not describe an individual as disabled or handicapped unless it's pertinent to the story. If a description must be used, try to be specific. Avoid descriptions that connote pity, such as *afflicted with* or *suffers from*. Words to avoid: *cripple*, *handicap*, *deaf and dumb*, *deaf-mute*, *mentally retarded*, *abnormality*, *impairment*, *disorder* and *special*. Words to use with caution: *disabled*, *blind* (for total loss of sight only; *visually impaired elsewhere*), *deaf* (for total loss of hearing only; *partially deaf* or *partial hearing loss elsewhere*) and *mute* (for physical inability to speak only; *speech impaired elsewhere*). Use *wheelchair user* for people who use wheelchairs for independent mobility. Do not use *confined to a wheelchair* or *wheelchair-bound*. Acceptable terms are people with disabilities or disabled people.

disc, disk. Use *disk* for computer-related references (*diskette*) and medical references, such as a *slipped disk*. Use the *disc* spelling for optical and laser-based devices (a *Blu-ray Disc*, *CD*, *DVD*) and for *disc brake*.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

discernible. Preferred spelling.

do's and don'ts. Preferred construction.

double-click. Hyphenate.

double-ply. Hyphenate.

driver license. Preferred construction.

dust storm. Preferred construction.

E

earth, Earth. Generally lowercase. Capitalize when used as the proper name of the planet. The tractor turns the earth. The astronauts returned to Earth.

east Phoenix.

East Valley.

e-book. Preferred spelling.

edgebeam. One word.

effect, impact. Use *effect* where the meaning is closer to *result*; only use *impact* if the effect is a major one: Environmental Impact Statement. *Impact* as a noun refers to the striking of one body against another: The impact of the meteor destroyed the surrounding plant and animal life.

e.g. Latin abbreviation meaning *for example*. Follow with a comma.

electric vehicles.

email. Preferred spelling. For ADOT email addresses, capitalize the letters that would be capitalized if the names were fully spelled out: JSmith@azdot.gov.

emigrate, immigrate. *To emigrate* is to leave one country or region for another (usually followed by *to*). *To immigrate* is to come to a country or region as a resident nonnative (usually followed by *from*).

ensure, insure, assure. Use *ensure* to mean guarantee: Steps were taken to ensure accuracy. Use *insure* for references to insurance: The policy insures his car. Use *assure* to mean to make sure or give confidence: She assured us the statement was accurate.

Environmental Impact Statement, EIS. Preferred capitalization.

equidistant. One word.

e-reader. Preferred spelling.

etc. Latin abbreviation meaning *and the rest*. Do not spell out.

eyebar. One word.

F

fabric substrate (n.), fabric-substrate (adj.). Preferred constructions.

Facebook. Trademarked spelling for the social-networking site.

falsework. One word.

farther, further. *Farther* refers to physical distance: He walked farther into the woods. *Further* refers to degree, time, space, extent, etc.: She will look further into the mystery.

fatigue-critical (adj.). Hyphenate.

fatigue failure (n.), fatigue-failure (adj.). Preferred constructions.

fatigue load (n.), fatigue-load (adj.). Preferred constructions.

fatigue test (v., n.), fatigue-test (adj.). Preferred constructions.

field connection (n.), field-connection (adj.). Preferred constructions.

field splice (v., n.), field-splice (adj.). Preferred constructions.

field weld (n.), field-welded (adj., v.). Preferred constructions.

flame cut (v.), flame-cut (adj.). Preferred constructions.

federal, Federal. Only capitalize for the architectural style and for corporate or governmental bodies that use the word as part of their formal names: Federal Express, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Lowercase when used as an adjective to distinguish something from state, county, city, town or private entities: federal court, federal judge.

female, woman. Use *female* instead of *woman* as an adjective: Amelia Earhart was the first female pilot to solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

fewer, less. Fewer refers to count nouns: 15 or fewer items. Less refers to noncount nouns: a quart less water.

first lady. Not a formal title. Do not capitalize, even when used before the name of a chief of state's wife: first lady Michelle Obama.

first reference, second reference. Most names should not be abbreviated on the first reference. Refer to the most recent AP Stylebook for specific instances.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

HIGHWAYS. On first reference, use the number with the common/segment name (where applicable) in parentheses: Loop 101 (Agua Fria Freeway). On second reference, use the common/segment name.

flash flood. Two words.

flat adverbs. Grammatically acceptable, but moderate use: Drive safe!

Flickr. Trademarked spelling for the online community of photographers.

floodwater. One word.

floorbeam. One word.

flow line. Two words.

flyer, flyers. (for handbills)

formwork. One word. **foreign words and phrases.** Do not use italics for foreign proper nouns: Champs Elysees, Fontana di Trevi. Do not italicize foreign words that are familiar or common in everyday English: *habeas corpus*, *laissez-faire*. Do italicize less-common foreign words: *avant-garde*, *in medias res*.

forego, forgo. *To forego* means to go before: a foregone conclusion. *To forgo* means to abstain from: He decided to forgo sugary drinks during his diet.

Foursquare. Trademarked spelling of a location-based service.

forward. Not forwards.

fracture-critical (adj.). Hyphenate.

freeway, highway. Freeways are urban, access-controlled routes. Highways are rural, non-access controlled routes. The two not interchangeable.

front line (n.), frontline (adj.). Preferred spellings: The front line in World War II was bloody. The front-line reporter was brave.

full-body scanner. Preferred construction.

G

gas, gases. Preferred spellings.

gay. Used to describe men and women attracted to the same sex, though *lesbian* is the more common term for women. Preferred over *homosexual* except in clinical contexts or references to sexual activity. Include sexual orientation only when it is pertinent to a story, and avoid references to "sexual preference" or to a gay or alternative "lifestyle."

gender neutrality and inclusiveness. Use gender-neutral and gender-inclusive language whenever possible. Avoid gender-specific terms and titles like *chairman*, *policeman*, *waitress* and *mankind*. Instead, use chair, police officer, server or people. To avoid gender-specific pronouns, pluralize the subject: Drivers should check their mirrors regularly (not A driver should check his mirrors regularly). These practices are generally preferable to using the awkward *s/he*, *his/her* and *he or she*. The antecedent and pronoun should always agree; therefore, do not use a plural *they*, *their* or *them* to refer to a singular noun.

general purpose lanes. (no hyphen)

geographic names. Abbreviate *Saint* as *St.* and *Mount* as *Mt.* Capitalize common nouns when they form an integral part of a proper name, but lowercase them when they stand alone: Central Avenue, the avenue; the Colorado River, the river. Lowercase common nouns that are not a part of a specific name: the Arizona mountains. East Valley, West Valley, but west Phoenix, south Phoenix, north Phoenix, east Phoenix.

good-bye. Preferred spelling.

Google, Googled, Googling. Trademarked name and preferred derivative spellings.

Governor Doug Ducey. Governor Ducey on second reference. Do not abbreviate Governor.

gray. Preferred spelling, but greyhound.

Greater Phoenix.

groundwater. Preferred spelling.

H

half day (n.), half-day (adj.). Preferred constructions.

half-mast, half-staff. Preferred constructions. A flag is only ever half-mast on a ship. Anywhere else, it's half-staff.

handicapped. See *disabled*, *handicapped*, *impaired*.

Hanukkah. Preferred spelling.

headlines and subheads in releases, documents, etc. Similar to the headline and subhead guidance from AP below: Capitalize only the first word and proper nouns in headlines that use AP style. Exception: The first word after a colon is always uppercase in headlines.

health care (n.), health-care (adj.). Preferred constructions: Advanced health care usually results in older populations. Health-care reform is a contentious issue.

heat cure (n.), heat-cure (v.). Preferred constructions.

heat-curve (v.). Hyphenate.

heat-straighten (v.). Hyphenate.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

heat treat (v.), heat-treated (adj.). Preferred constructions.

high density (n.), high-density (adj.). Preferred constructions.

high occupancy (n.), high-occupancy (adj.) high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. Preferred constructions.

high speed (n.), high-speed (adj.). Preferred constructions.

high temperature (n.), high-temperature (adj.). Preferred constructions.

high water (n.), high-water (adj.). Preferred constructions.

Highways, freeways. Highway and freeway abbreviations should have no periods: US 60, SR 51. Hyphenate interstate abbreviations: I-10, I-17. Capitalize specific highway names when spelled out; no hyphen is necessary: U.S. Route 60, Interstate 17. Do not abbreviate loop: Loop 202. For exits that have a lettered designation and for highway and freeway designations that include a direction, place the capital letter on the right of the last numeral with no space between or period after: Exit 13A, I-10E. Also:

- Street names for highways: Highway designation first with street name in parentheses when important for clarity within an urban area: US 60 (Grand Avenue), State Route 79 (Oracle Road)
- 101, 202: Loop number with the segment name in parentheses: Loop 101 (Pima Freeway), Loop 202 (South Mountain Freeway)

Carefree Highway. Not interchangeable with any part of State Route 74 in ADOT communications. Use Carefree Highway only for the road east of Interstate 17/Carefree Highway interchange. *Note: SR 74 west of I-17 to Lake Pleasant Parkway is referred to in addresses as Carefree Highway.*

historic, historical. A *historic* event is an important occurrence, one that stands out in history. Any occurrence in the past is a *historical* event. Use *a* before historic, historical and history, not *an*.

historical periods and events. Capitalize the names of widely recognized epochs in anthropology, archaeology, geology and history: the Bronze Age, the War of the Roses. Capitalize also widely recognized popular names for periods and events: the Atomic Age, the Boston Tea Party. Lowercase *century*: the 20th century. Capitalize only the proper nouns or adjectives in general descriptions of a period: ancient Greece, Victorian era. For additional guidance, see separate entries in the most recent AP Stylebook and Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

homepage. Preferred construction.

hot-bend (v.). Hyphenate.

hot-bond (v.). Hyphenate.

hybrid, plug-in hybrid vehicles.

I

i.e. Latin abbreviation meaning *that is*, which introduces further clarification. Followed with a comma: some citrus (i.e., oranges and limes).

imply, infer. Writers or speakers *imply* something in the words they use. Listeners or readers *infer* something from the words.

-in. Precede with a hyphen: *break-in, cave-in, walk-in, write-in*.

in-. No hyphen when it means not: *inaccurate, insufferable*. Other uses without a hyphen: *inbound, indoor, infield, infighting, inpatient (n. adj.)* A few combinations take a hyphen, however: *in-depth, ingroup, in-house, in-law*. Follow Merriam-Webster Dictionary when in doubt.

in between (prep.), in-between (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

inclusive storytelling. Inclusive storytelling should be part of everyday conversations, decision-making, coverage. Include diversity by representing people of different backgrounds. Cast a wide net when looking for voices and images for any coverage.

Indian. Indian is used to describe the peoples and cultures of the South Asian nation of India. Do not use the term as a shorthand for Native Americans or American Indians, either a single person or a group. However, Indian is acceptable when part of a proper name, such as Indian Country, the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona.

Indigenous. Capitalize Indigenous.

information, info. Do not punctuate abbreviation. Avoid abbreviation in more formal text.

initials. Use periods and no space when an individual uses initials instead of a first and middle name: W.C. Fields.

inner city. Two words.

intelligent transportation systems, ITS. Preferred capitalization.

internet. Do not capitalize.

intranet. Do not capitalize.

iPad, iPhone, iPod. Trademarked spellings.

irregardless. A double negative that usually degrades the user's credibility. Use *regardless* or *irrespective* as determined by the context.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

italics. Use (sparingly) for emphasis. Use for words that reference themselves: The word *till* is older than the word *until*.

J

jail, prison. Not interchangeable. *Prison* is a generic term that may be applied to the maximum- and medium-security institutions that confine people serving sentences for felonies. *Jail* is normally used to confine people serving sentences for misdemeanors, people awaiting trial or sentencing on either felony or misdemeanor charges and people confined for civil matters, such as failure to pay alimony and other types of contempt of court.

java, Java. Lowercase in reference to the coffee. Capitalize in reference to the trademark of Oracle Corp. for a computer programming language that can be run across a number of computer systems.

job descriptions, job titles. Do not capitalize unless it comes before the name of a person: Police Chief Joseph Smith, but Joseph Smith, chief of police.

judgment. Preferred spelling.

K

keyword. One word.

Kleenex. Trademarked name for a brand of facial tissue. Use *tissue* where *Kleenex* is not required.

L

label, labeled, labeling. Preferred spellings.

Latin abbreviations. Do not italicize.

law making (n.), law-making (adj.). Law making is complicated. The law-making process is complicated.

lay, lie. The action word is *lay*. It takes a direct object. *Laid* is the form for its past tense and its past participle. Its present participle is *laying*. When *lie* means to *make an untrue statement*, the verb forms are *lie, lied, lying*. Refer to most recent AP Stylebook for additional information.

lay off (v.), layoff (n.). Preferred constructions.

leakproof. One word.

like, as. Use *like* as a preposition to compare nouns and pronouns. It requires an object: Jim blocks like a pro. The conjunction *as* is the correct word to introduce clauses: Jim blocks the linebacker as he should.

like, such as. In general, *like* suggests a comparison where its meaning is *resembling*; *such as* implies inclusion where its meaning is *for example*.

line item (n.), line-item (adj.). Preferred constructions.

line of sight (n.), line-of-sight (adj.). Preferred constructions.

LinkedIn. Trademarked spelling for the professional networking site.

lists, in-line. Do not separate items in in-line lists with markers like 1) or a. If the current wording is still too ambiguous for a comma or a semicolon to clarify, rewrite the sentence or create a vertical list.

lists, vertical. Only use numbered lists that have a specific rationale for ordering the items as they appear (e.g., referencing the items easily in later text). Use bullets in most cases. Use parallel construction for each item in a list. Use no punctuation at the end of a single word or single phrase in each section of a list. See the most recent AP Stylebook for more information.

CAPITALIZATION. If the setup for the vertical list is a complete sentence, capitalize the first letter of each bulleted item. If the setup is not a complete sentence, lowercase the bulleted items unless they are proper nouns or adjectives.

PUNCTUATION. End complete sentences in periods. Do not punctuate incomplete sentences unless they are completing the setup. For items that complete a setup, do not separate them with commas or semicolons; do not add *and* to the end of the penultimate item. Do not punctuate with a colon the end of a setup that is an incomplete sentence.

live load (n.), live-load (adj.). Preferred constructions.

load carrying (n.), load-carrying (adj.). Preferred constructions.

load indicator (n.), load-indicator (adj.). Preferred constructions.

load test (n.), load-test (v.). Preferred constructions.

lock-pin. Hyphenate.

log in (v.), login (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

log off (v.), logoff (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

log on (v.), logon (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

Long-Range Transportation Plan. Preferred construction.

low water (n.), low-water (adj.). Preferred constructions.

lubricant-adhesive. Hyphenate.

lubricant-sealant. Hyphenate.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

M

many, much. *Many* refers to count nouns: many M&Ms. *Much* refers to noncount nouns: much rice.

match-cast, match-casting. Preferred constructions.

match mark (n.), match-mark (v.). Preferred constructions.

M.D. Use the periods. *M.D.* follows the person's name: House, M.D.

media. When used as a noun, requires a plural verb: The media were at the scene of the accident.

memorandum, memorandums. Preferred plural spelling.

Metropolitan Planning Organization, MPO. Preferred capitalization.

metro-Phoenix area, metro Phoenix.

microphone, mic. Preferred abbreviation.

mid-depth. Hyphenate.

mid-length. Hyphenate.

mid-opening. Hyphenate.

middle class (n.), middle-class (adj.). Preferred construction.

midspan. One word.

milepost, MP. One word. Preferred abbreviation. When referring to mileposts, provide more geographical context by naming the nearest town. If the town is not well-known, provide geographical context by giving how many miles and in what direction the milepost is from the nearest well-known city (e.g., Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff).

millimeter, mL. Preferred abbreviation.

modern day (n.), modern-day (adj.). Preferred constructions.

moon. Lowercase.

mosquito, mosquitoes. Preferred plural spelling.

mpg. Preferred abbreviation. Lowercase.

mph. Lowercase, no periods. Preferred in all references for *miles per hour* or *miles an hour*.

MP3. Preferred abbreviation. Capitalize.

multimodal. Do not hyphenate.

multiple-centerbeam. Hyphenate.

Muslim. Preferred spelling.

myriad. Note the word is not followed by *of*: the myriad books in the library.

N

naive. No umlaut.

narrow-minded. Hyphenate.

nationalities and races. Capitalize the proper names of nationalities, peoples, races, tribes, etc.: Arab, Arabic; African American; Navajo; Irish. Derogatory terms are never acceptable.

Native Americans, Indigenous people(s), American Indian, Indian. American Indian is considered outdated. Some tribal citizens may use the term in reference to themselves. Other tribal citizens or organizations may use it in legal contexts or organization names. It is acceptable in those contexts. Do not use the term Native American for an individual. The term Native Americans can be used in broad references when referring to two or more people of different tribal affiliations within the contiguous U.S. The term Indigenous peoples is a broad umbrella term, describing the original inhabitants of a place globally. Where possible, be more specific by using Tribal Nation affiliation: Navajo commissioner. When known, defer to an individual's preference. Do not use Indian to refer to American Indians.

natives. Acceptable on second reference for Native Americans. Also acceptable as an adjective – Native music, Native art – but if the story is not generally about Native Americans, use Native American music.

nighttime. One word.

neither/nor, not/or. These are the ways these words are usually paired. Pairing *not* with *nor* is also correct but requires a comma: I'm not a teacher or an engineer. I'm not a teacher, nor an engineer.

noise-sensitive area.

NONDISCRIMINATION.

nonprofit. Do not hyphenate.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

north Phoenix.

numbers. Spell out numbers that begin a sentence.

Spell out **CASUAL USES:** Thanks a million.

Spell out **WHOLE NUMBERS BELOW 10, AND USE FIGURES FOR 10 AND ABOVE:** They had 10 dogs, six cats and 97 rabbits.

Use commas for **NUMBERS FOUR DIGITS IN LENGTH OR LONGER:** 1,000; 50,698.

DIMENSIONS, TO INDICATE DEPTH, HEIGHT, LENGTH AND WIDTH: He is 5 feet, 6 inches tall, the 5-foot-6 man (“inch” is understood), the 5-foot man, the basketball team signed a 7-footer. The car is 17 feet long, 6 feet wide and 5 feet high. The rug is 9 feet by 12 feet, the 9-by-12 rug. A 9-inch snowfall.

Exception: two-by-four

Spell out the noun, which refers to any length of untrimmed lumber approximately 2 inches thick by 4 inches wide.

DISTANCES: Always use figures: He walked 4 miles.

MONETARY UNITS: 5 cents, \$5 bill, 8 euros, 4 pounds.

SPEEDS: 7 mph, winds of 5 to 10 mph, winds of 7 to 9 knots.

TEMPERATURES: Use figures, except zero. It was 8 degrees below zero or minus 8. The temperature dropped from 38 to 8 in two hours.

HIGHWAY DESIGNATIONS. Use numerals for highway designations: State Route 143, Interstate 17. When abbreviating, only separate the word and the number with a hyphen for interstates: SR 143, I-17. Do not include periods in US for highway designations: US 60.

LARGE NUMBERS. Spell *million*, *billion* and other large numbers, but use a numeral to express the actual number: \$2 billion. Do not hyphenate the number and the word.

ORDINALS. Spell out *first* through *ninth* when they indicate sequence in time or location: first base, First Amendment. Starting with *10th*, use figures instead. Use figures for ordinals that have been assigned in forming names (usually geographic, military or political designations): 1st Ward, 5th Fleet. Do not superscript ordinals.

PERCENTAGES. Use the % sign when paired with a numeral, with no space, in most cases: Average hourly pay rose 3.1% from a year ago. Use figures: 1%, 4 percentage points. For amounts less than 1% precede the decimal with a zero: The cost of living rose 0.6%.

PHONE NUMBERS. Use periods between number segments: 602.712.5555. No hyphens in short phone numbers: 511, 911.

O

octopus, octopuses. Preferred plural spelling.

off-site, on-site. Hyphenate.

offline, online. Preferred spellings.

official titles. Do not capitalize unless it comes before the name of a person: President John F. Kennedy, but John F. Kennedy, president of the United States.

OK, OK'd, OK'ing, OKs. Preferred constructions. Do not use *okay*.

Older adult(s), older person/people. Preferred over senior citizens, seniors or elderly as a general term when appropriate and relevant. It is best used in general phrases that do not refer to specific individuals: *concern for older people; a home for older adults*. Aim for specificity when possible: *new housing for people 65 and over; an exercise program for women over 70*.

onetime, one-time, one time. She is the onetime (former) governor. He is the one-time (once) winner of 2004. She did it one time.

on-ramp, off-ramp.

P

park and ride (v.), park-and-ride (adj.). Preferred constructions.

patrol, patrolled, patrolling. Preferred spellings.

.pdf, PDF. Lowercase for file extension. Capitalize in general use.

pedestrian hybrid beacon, PHB. Preferred capitalization.

percent, percentage, %. *Percent* is one word; it usually accompanies a figure. *Percentage* refers to amounts: A high percentage of the student body attended the dance. Use the % sign when paired with a numeral, with no space, in most cases. See numbers entry for more detail.

Ph.D., Ph.D.s. Preferred constructions. In a title, it follows the individual's name: Gray, Ph.D.

phishing. A form of Internet fraud that aims to steal personal information such as credit cards, Social Security numbers, user IDs and passwords.

phone numbers. Use periods between number segments: 602.712.5555. No hyphens in short phone numbers: 511, 911.

plants and animals. Lowercase common names of plants and animals: red maple, monarch butterfly. Capitalize names derived from proper nouns and adjectives: Venus flytrap, French bulldog.

pore, pour. The verb *pore* means to gaze intently or steadily: She pored over her books. The verb *pour* means to flow in a continuous stream: He poured the cream into his coffee.

post-tensioning (n., adj.). Preferred construction.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

pothole. Preferred spelling.

preconstruction in all uses. (no hyphen)

prefixes. - See separate listings for commonly used prefixes. In general, do not hyphenate when using a prefix with a word starting with a consonant. But there are exceptions. See individual entries and the dictionary. We no longer generally use a hyphen with these prefixes: out-, post-, pre-, re-. Previous guidance was to use a hyphen with those unless listed separately in the dictionary.

Three rules are constant:

- Use a hyphen if the prefix ends in a vowel and the word that follows begins with the same vowel. Exceptions: cooperate, coordinate, and double -e combinations such as preestablish, preeminent, preeclampsia, preempt.
- Use a hyphen if the word that follows is capitalized.
- Use a hyphen to join doubled prefixes: sub-subparagraph.

prepositions. It is grammatically acceptable to end a sentence with a preposition, especially a particle: This should cheer you up. But, do not end with a preposition if the meaning of the sentence would be the same without it. **WRONG:** Do you want to go with? **RIGHT:** Do you want to go? However, minimize ending sentences with prepositions because of the general perception that doing so is incorrect.

DOUBLE PREPOSITIONS. Usually unnecessary, imprecise. Sometimes it's fixed by simply deleting one of the prepositions: Get off of the freeway.

president. Only capitalized when appearing in front of the individual president's name.

Presidents Day. Preferred construction.

prime time (n.), prime-time (adj.). Preferred constructions.

principal, principle. *Principal* refers to something that is the most important or highest in rank. A *principle* is a rule or code.

pronouns. Match the number and gender of the pronoun to the number and gender of the antecedent: George lost his wallet. Make subjects plural where the gender is either unknown or immaterial: Drivers should check their mirrors regularly. See gender neutrality and inclusiveness for additional information.

proof load (n.), proof-load (adj.). Preferred construction.

proposition. Do not abbreviate. Capitalize when used with a figure in describing a ballot question: Proposition 15.

pros and cons. Preferred construction.

public, publicly. Preferred adverb spelling.

pull in (v.), pull-in (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

pull out (v.), pullout (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

push out (v.), push-out (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

Q

quotation (n.), quote (v.). Preferred constructions. Do not use *quote* as a noun.

R

red light (n.), red-light (adj.). Preferred constructions.

referendum, referendums. Preferred plural spelling.

regime, regimen. A *regime* is a system or rule of government. A *regimen* is a systematic plan, such as a diet, therapy, etc. These two words have the same roots and have been treated as synonymous in the past. Their synonymy, however, has weakened as their meanings have become more distinct. Do not treat them as synonymous.

resume. No diacritical marks.

right hand (n.), right-hand (adj.). Preferred constructions.

right of way, rights of way. Preferred constructions and plural spelling.

right-of-way acquisition.

riprap

rotational capacity (n.), rotational-capacity (adj.). Preferred constructions.

run off (v.), runoff (n.). Preferred constructions.

rush hour (n.), rush-hour (adj.). Preferred constructions.

S

seal-weld (v.). Hyphenate.

seasons. Do not capitalize unless part of a formal name: We will go to Flagstaff this winter. This year we're going to the Summer Olympics.

semilog. One word.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

send off (v.), send-off (n.). Preferred constructions.

service limit (n.), service-limit (adj.). Preferred constructions.

service load (n.), service-load (adj.). Preferred constructions.

set up (v.), setup (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

sheet, workbook. Use these terms to refer to a file created in Microsoft Office Excel.

sheet flow. Two words.

shop-splice (adj.). Hyphenate.

shop-weld (adj.). Hyphenate.

sic. Do not use (sic) to show that quoted material or person's words include a misspelling, incorrect grammar or peculiar usage. Instead, paraphrase if possible.

single-ply. Hyphenate.

slip-critical. Hyphenate.

snowplow. One word.

Social Security number. Do not capitalize *number*.

south Phoenix.

spaces. A maximum of one space is allowed between words and punctuation. Most punctuation should be flush with the previous letter.

split infinitives. Grammatically acceptable, but generally thought to be incorrect usage. Avoid where possible.

sport utility vehicle, SUV. No plural s in sport; no hyphen. *SUV* is acceptable on first reference.

stand in (v.), stand-in (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

stand off (v.), standoff (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

stand out (v.), standout (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

state. Departing from AP style, capitalize when referring to *the State of Arizona* or *the State* as an entity. Do not capitalize in other uses when used simply as an adjective to specify a level of jurisdiction: state Rep. Jane Doe, state funds, state department of transportation.

state names. Spell out state names when they stand alone in textual material. These states are always spelled out, regardless of context: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas and Utah. When in conjunction with a city name in text and datelines, and in short-form party affiliation, use these abbreviations (postal codes in parentheses for clarity): Ala. (AL), Ariz. (AZ), Ark. (AR), Calif. (CA), Colo. (CO), Conn. (CT), Del. (DE), Fla. (FL), Ga. (GA), Ill. (IL), Ind. (IN), Kan. (KS), Ky. (KY), La. (LA), Md. (MD), Mass. (MA), Mich. (MI), Minn. (MN), Miss. (MS), Mo. (MO), Mont. (MT), Neb. (NE), Nev. (NV), N.H. (NH), N.J. (NJ), N.M. (NM), N.Y. (NY), N.C. (NC), N.D. (ND), Okla. (OK), Ore. (OR), Pa. (PA), R.I. (RI), S.C. (SC), S.D. (SD), Tenn. (TN), Vt. (VT), Va. (VA), Wash. (WA), W.Va. (WV), Wis. (WI) and Wyo. (WY).

still water (n.), still-water (adj.). Preferred constructions.

stormwater. One word.

straight, strait. *Straight* refers to something that has no bend or angle. A *strait* is a narrow passage of water that connects two larger bodies of water.

suffixes. See separate listings for commonly used suffixes. Follow Merriam-Webster Dictionary for words not in this guide. If a word combination is not listed in the dictionary, use two words for the verb form; hyphenate any noun or adjective forms.

sun. Lowercase.

super- The rules in **prefixes** apply, but in general, no hyphen. Some frequently used words: *superagency, supercarrier, supercharge, superhighway, superpower, supertanker*. As with all prefixes, however, use a hyphen if the word that follows is capitalized: *super-Republican*.

swivel joint (n.), swivel-joint (adj.). Preferred constructions.

swivel joist (n.), swivel-joist (adj.). Preferred constructions.

T

take off (v.), takeoff (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

take out (v.), takeout (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

take over (v.), takeover (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

take up (v.), takeup (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

team. Use a singular verb and the pronoun *it* when referring to the team as a collective unit. However, the team name takes a plural verb: The Phoenix Suns are on the road right now.

teen, teenager, teenage. Never teen-aged.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

telephone numbers. Use periods between number segments: 602.712.5555. No hyphens in short phone numbers: 511, 911.

telltale. Preferred spelling.

temperature. Use figures for all temperatures except zero. Use a word, not a minus sign, to indicate temperatures below zero: The day's low was minus 10. The day's low was 10 below zero. Temperatures get higher or lower, but not warmer or cooler: Temperatures are expected to rise above 100 degrees Fahrenheit on Friday. In cases that require mention of scale, use these forms: 100 degrees Fahrenheit; 43 C.

tensile strength (n.), tensile-strength (adj.). Preferred constructions.

tension indicator (n.), tension-indicator (adj.). Preferred constructions.

text, texted, texting. Acceptable in all usages as a verb for *to send a text message*.

than, then. Use *than* for comparisons. Use *then* to show time and sequence.

that, which. Use *that* and *which* in referring to inanimate objects and to animals without a name. Use *that* for essential clauses, important to the meaning of the sentence, and without commas: All that glitters is not gold. Use *which* for nonessential clauses, where the pronoun is less necessary, and use commas: The cake, which I have heard so much about, is a lie. (Tip: If you can drop the clause and not lose the meaning of the sentence, use *which*; otherwise, use *that*. A *which* clause is surrounded by commas; no commas are used with *that* clauses.)

thumbs-down, thumbs-up. Preferred constructions.

tie in (v.), tie-in (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

tie up (v.), tie-up (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

TikTok. Preferred construction. Social media video service popular with teens and young adults.

till (prep.). One word, but not *'til*.

time. Use the days of the week, not *today* or *tonight*, but only use when the days of the week are within seven days before or after the current date. Use the month and a figure where appropriate. For time in-line with text, lowercase with periods, separate from the time with one space, and drop the :00: 7 p.m., 6:30 a.m., 4-5 p.m., 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For time shown in a list (e.g., an Hours and Locations web page or section), follow the same rules, but eschew the periods: 7 pm, 6:30 am, 4-5 pm, 8 am-5:30 pm.

timeframe. two words in all uses.

timeline. One word.

tip off (v.), tip-off (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

titles. Follow these rules for formatting titles.

CAPITALIZATION. Capitalize the principal words, including prepositions and conjunctions of four or more letters. Capitalize articles (i.e., *the, a, an*) or words of fewer than four letters if it is the first or last word in a title or subtitle: "The Hunger Games," "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

TREATMENT. Put quotation marks around all titles except religious texts and books that are primarily catalogs of reference material, including almanacs, directories, dictionaries, encyclopedias, gazetteers, handbooks and similar productions: the Talmud, "The Late Night Show with Jimmy Fallon," "The Hunger Games," the Farmer's Almanac. Do not use quotation marks around titles of software: Windows, WordPerfect.

PERSONAL. Only capitalize personal titles when they appear in front of the individual's name. Lowercase everywhere else: President Obama lives in Washington, D.C. The president's family lives with him in the White House.

SUBTITLES. Follow the same rules for subtitles as you would for titles. The first word after the colon is capitalized.

tornado, tornadoes. Preferred plural spelling.

total, totaled, totaling. Preferred spellings. The phrase *a total of* often is redundant. It may be used, however, to avoid a figure at the start of a sentence: A total of 650 people were killed in holiday traffic accidents.

toward. Not *towards*.

trade in (v.), trade-in (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

trademark,™,®. Where possible, replace brand names and trademarks with generic terms. Where not possible, use only on first use for registered and unregistered trademark terms: Windows® XP, Windows Vista®, Windows 7.

trade off (v.), trade-off (n., adj.). Preferred constructions.

traffic-loading (n., adj.). Preferred construction.

transgender. An adjective that describes people whose gender does not match the sex or gender they were identified as having at birth. Use the pronoun preferred by the transgender individual; if that preference is not expressed, use the pronoun consistent with the way the individual lives publicly.

transit-friendly. Hyphenate.

transsexual. Do not use. See **transgender**.

travel, traveled, traveling, traveler. Preferred spellings.

try out (v.), tryout (n.). Preferred constructions.

T-shirt. Preferred construction.

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

Tumblr. Trademarked spelling of the popular social media blog site.

20-something. Preferred construction.

24/7. Preferred construction.

two-by-four. Preferred construction.

U

unground. One word.

United Arab Emirates, Spell out on first references. UAE (no periods) is acceptable on second reference.

United Kingdom, U.K., UK. Use the periods in the abbreviation when it appears in text. For graphics, do not use the periods.

United Nations, U.N. Use the periods in the abbreviation.

United States, U.S., US, USA. Use the periods in U.S. when it appears in text. For graphics, do not use the periods. USA never takes periods.

underway. (one word in all uses)

units of measurement. No periods in most SI and U.S. abbreviations. Two exceptions are *inch* and *fluid ounce*: in., fl. oz. Lowercase all prefixes in or under the thousands. (Exception: *Kilobyte* is abbreviated KB.) Capitalize prefixes in the millions and above. Separate the number from the unit of measurement with one space.

upside down (adv.), upside-down (adj.). The car turned upside down. The book is upside-down.

upward. Not *upwards*.

URL. Preferred construction.

USB. Preferred construction.

user-friendly. Hyphenate.

username. Preferred spelling.

U-turn. Preferred construction.

V

Valley of the Sun, the Valley. Capitalize in reference to the Phoenix Metro area: Longtime residents of the Valley know how hot the summers can get. See **regions** for style on areas within the Valley.

versus, vs., v. Spell it out in ordinary speech and writing: The proposal to revamp Medicare versus proposals to reform Medicare and Medicaid at the same time ... In short expressions, however, the abbreviation vs. is permitted: *The issue of guns vs. butter has long been with us*. For court cases use v: only: *Brown v. The Board of Education*.

veto, vetoed, vetoes, vetoing. Preferred spellings.

video game. Preferred construction.

Vimeo. A video-sharing network owned by IAC, an international company whose holding include Match.com and The Daily Beast.

virtual private network, VPN. VPN is acceptable on second reference.

virus, viruses. Preferred plural spelling.

W

walk up (v.), walk-up (n., adj.). Preferred construction.

Washington, D.C. Preferred construction. When *Washington, D.C.*, doesn't end a sentence, follow it with a comma.

waterline. Preferred construction.

water table. Preferred construction.

weather forecaster. Preferred over *weatherman*.

web. Lower case.

web addresses. Do not include the "http://" or "www." For more information, go to azdot.gov.

website, webpage, webmaster, webcam. Preferred constructions. But **web address, web browser**.

weld toe (n.), weld-toe (adj.). Preferred constructions.

well. Hyphenate as part of a compound modifier: well-dressed, well-informed.

well-being. Hyphenate.

what, which. Use *what* when referring to an unknown or unspecified number of possible answers or options: What is your favorite color? Use *which* when referring to a fixed or limited number of possible answers or options: Which is your favorite color, blue or red?

5.2 Editorial Style Guide | Editorial Style

wheel path. Two words.

wheel-load. Hyphenate.

wheelchair. Preferred construction.

west Phoenix.

West Valley.

who, whom. *Who* is a subjective pronoun, meaning that it represents the noun performing the action of the phrase, clause or sentence: Who asked you? *Whom* is an objective pronoun, meaning that it represents the noun receiving the action of the phrase, clause or sentence: Whom did you tell? Use *whom* after prepositions (e.g., *to, with, for*, etc.) and (usually) after the verb of a sentence.

wiki. Lowercase in reference to the general website structure.

Wikipedia. Trademarked spelling of the online crowd-sourced encyclopedia.

work zone. Preferred construction.

workplace, workspace, worksheet, workforce, workday, workhorse, workout, workstation, workweek. Preferred construction.

wrong-way driver detection system.

XYZ

X (Twitter) Trademarked spelling of the social-networking site, formerly known as Twitter. Elon Musk purchased Twitter and renamed Twitter as X. Use the social platform X on first reference. Reference to its former name of Twitter may or may not be necessary, depending on the content.

X-ray. Preferred construction.

Yahoo. Trademarked spelling. Not *Yahoo!*

year-end (n., adj.). Preferred construction.

yearlong, yearslong. Preferred construction.

YouTube. Trademarked spelling of the online video-sharing community.

zero, zeros. Preferred plural spelling.

zigzag. Preferred construction.

ZIP code. Preferred capitalization. Do not include the four-digit extension.

5.3 Editorial Style Guide | Punctuation Review

Ampersands, &

usage. Do not use except in web addresses and trademarked names.

Apostrophes, '

contractions. For ease of understanding and a less formal tone, some words can be shortened by omitting letters: I've, it's, don't, 'tis the season.

dates. Use a right apostrophe to show a contracted date (the year of '86) or possession (1969's atmosphere). Do not use an apostrophe to show plural dates (the 1920s).

letters. Use an apostrophe for plurals of single letters, but not for multiple-letter combinations. Mind your p's and q's; He learned his ABCs and brought home a report card with four A's and two B's. The Oakland A's won the pennant. The CEOs gathered for a brunch.

numbers. Do not use an apostrophe for plurals of numerals: He earned all 5s on his AP exams.

possession. The apostrophe's most common usage is to show possession.

PLURAL NOUNS NOT ENDING IN S. Add 's: the alumni's contributions, women's rights.

NOUNS PLURAL IN FORM, SINGULAR IN MEANING. Add only an apostrophe: mathematics' rules, measles' effects. Apply the same principle when a plural word occurs in the formal name of a singular entity: General Motors' profits, the United States' wealth.

NOUNS THE SAME IN SINGULAR AND PLURAL FORM. Treat them the same as plurals, even if the meaning is singular: one corps' location, the two deer's tracks, the lone moose's antlers.

SINGULAR NOUNS NOT ENDING IN S. Add 's: the church's needs, the girl's toys, the horse's food, the ship's route, the VIP's seat. Some style guides say that singular nouns ending in s sounds such as e, x and z may take either the apostrophe or 's. For consistency and ease in remembering a rule, use 's if the word does not end in the letter s: Butz's policies, the fox's den, the justice's verdict, Marx's theories, the prince's life, Xerox's profits.

SINGULAR COMMON NOUNS ENDING IN S. Add 's: *the hostess's invitation, the hostess's seat; the witness's answer, the witness's story.* (A change from previous guidance calling for just an apostrophe if the next word begins with s.)

SINGULAR PROPER NOUNS ENDING IN S. Use only an apostrophe: Achilles' heel, Dickens' novels, Jules' seat, Kansas' roads, Tennessee Williams' plays. (An exception is St. James's Palace.)

JOINT AND INDIVIDUAL POSSESSION. Use a possessive form after only the last word if ownership is joint: Fred and Sylvia's apartment, Fred and Sylvia's stocks. Use a possessive form after both words if the objects are individually owned: Fred's and Sylvia's books.

Brackets, []

quoted material. Use to show alteration to an original quotation: "They [the students] ... took a field trip." It is not necessary to put brackets around ellipses, even if they were not part of the original text.

parenthetical. Use to show a parenthetical embedded within a parenthetical: Joey (the school [Hawthorne High's] star sprinter) twisted his ankle slipping on a patch of ice. This construction is generally thought to be bad form and should be avoided.

5.3 Editorial Style Guide | Punctuation Review

Colons, :

general. Do not place a colon at the end of a sentence fragment.

capitalization. Capitalize the first word after a colon only if it is a proper noun or the start of a complete sentence: He promised this: The company would make good all the losses. But: There were three considerations: expense, time and feasibility.

listing. Use the colon in such listings as time elapsed (1:31:07.2), time of day (8:31 p.m.), biblical and legal citations (Arizona Revised Code 3:245-260).

dialogue. Use a colon for dialogue: Bailey: What were you doing the night of the 19th?

Q and A. The colon is used for question-and-answer interviews: Q: Where did you go to school to become an engineer?

introducing quotations. Use a comma to introduce a direct quotation of one sentence that remains within a paragraph. Use a colon to introduce long quotations within a paragraph and to end all paragraphs that introduce a paragraph of quoted material.

placement with quotation marks. Colons go outside quotation marks unless they are part of the quotation itself.

in titles. Use a colon to indicate a subtitle within a title.

miscellaneous. Do not combine an em dash and a colon.

Commas, ,

in a series. Use a comma to separate elements in a series, but do not put a comma before the conjunction in a simple series: Arizona's flag is red, blue, yellow and copper. Put a comma before the concluding conjunction in a series, however, if an integral element of the series requires a conjunction: I had orange juice, toast, and ham and eggs for breakfast. Also use a comma before the concluding conjunction in a complex series of phrases.

with coordinate adjectives. Use commas to separate a series of adjectives equal in rank. If the commas could be replaced by the word *and* without changing the sense, the adjectives are equal, or coordinate: the gray, scratchy shawl. Use no comma when the last adjective before a noun outranks its predecessors because it is an integral element of a noun phrase, which is equivalent to a single noun phrase: a cheap fur coat.

with nonessential phrases and clauses. A nonessential phrase or clause must be set off by commas. An essential phrase or clause must not be set off from the rest of a sentence by commas.

with introductory phrases and clauses. Use a comma to separate an introductory clause or phrase from the main clause: When the leaves begin to change, children spend more time outside. The comma may be omitted after short introductory phrases if no ambiguity would result: During the night he heard many noises. But use the comma if its omission would slow comprehension: On the street below, the curious gathered.

with conjunctions. Use a comma before coordinating conjunctions (i.e., *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*) that connect independent clauses: She was glad she had looked, for someone was approaching the house. The comma may be dropped if the two independent clauses are short: He ran and I walked. The comma may be dropped if two clauses with expressly stated subjects are short. In general, however, favor use of a comma unless a particular literary effect is desired or if it would distort the sense of a sentence.

introducing a direct quotation. Use a comma to introduce a complete one-sentence quotation within a paragraph. Use a colon to introduce quotations of more than one sentence. Do not use a comma at the start of an indirect or partial quotation.

before attribution. Use a comma instead of a period at the end of a quotation that is followed by attribution: "Run to the store," she suggested. Do not use a comma, however, if the quoted sentence ends with a question mark or exclamation point: "Why should I?" he asked.

5.3 Editorial Style Guide | Punctuation Review

with hometowns and ages. Use a comma to set off an individual's hometown or age when it is placed in apposition to a name (whether or is used or not): Mary Smith, Glendale, and Mark Smithe, Scottsdale, were there. If an individual's age is used, set it off by commas: Maude Findlay, 48, Tuckahoe, New York, was present.

separating similar words. Use a comma to separate duplicated words that otherwise would be confusing: What the problem is, is not clear.

in large figures. Use a comma for most figures greater than 999. The major exceptions are street addresses (1655 W. Jackson), broadcast frequencies (1460 kilohertz), room numbers, serial numbers, telephone numbers, page numbers and years (1990).

placement with quotations. Commas always go inside quotation marks.

with full dates. When a phrase refers to a month, day and year, set off the year with commas: Feb. 14, 2012, is Arizona's centennial.

DO NOT USE. To separate a subject from a verb. WRONG: The cat, was lazy. To separate a verb from the remaining predicate. WRONG: The cat was, lazy. To separate compound subjects. WRONG: The cat, and dog were lazy. To separate compound objects. The cat was lazy, and fat. To separate an essential dependent clause following an independent clause. WRONG: The cat was fat, because it ate too much. **BUT:** Because it ate too much, the cat was fat.

Ellipses, ...

construction. Consider the ellipsis a three-letter word: a space before and after, but none in between the letters, or periods in this case.

purposes. Use an ellipsis to indicate the deletion of one or more words in condensing quotations, texts and documents. Do not delete text that would distort the meaning. An ellipsis may also be used to indicate a thought that the speaker or writer does not complete.

with other punctuation. If the words that precede an ellipsis constitute a grammatically complete sentence, either in the original or in the condensation, place a period at the end of the last word before the ellipsis. Follow it with a regular space and an ellipsis: I don't have enough flour. ... I'll have to go to the store. When the grammatical sense calls for a question mark, exclamation point, comma or colon, the sequence is word, punctuation mark, regular space, ellipsis: Will you come with me? ... When material is deleted at the end of one paragraph and at the beginning of the one that follows, place an ellipsis in both locations.

quotations. In writing a story, do not use ellipses at the beginning and end of direct quotations. **RIGHT:** "It has become evident to me that I no longer have a strong enough political base," Nixon said. **WRONG:** "... it has become evident to me that I no longer have a strong enough political base ...," Nixon said.

special effects. Ellipses also may be used to separate individual items within a paragraph of show-business gossip or similar material. Use periods after items that are complete sentences.

Em Dashes, —

abrupt change. Use an em dash to denote an abrupt change in thought in a sentence or an emphatic pause: We will fly to Paris in June — if I get a raise. Smith offered a plan — it was unprecedented — to raise revenues.

series within a phrase. When a phrase that otherwise would be set off by commas contains a series of words that must be separated by commas, use em dashes to set off the full phrase: He listed the qualities — intuitive, visually appealing and unbuggy — that he liked in a smartphone.

attribution. Use an em dash before an author's or composer's name at the end of a quotation: "Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." — Mark Twain.

in datelines. NEW YORK (AP) — The city is broke.

with spaces. Put a space on both sides of an em dash in all uses.

5.3 Editorial Style Guide | Punctuation Review

En Dashes, –

AP style. Do not use an en dash. No style guidelines exist in the most recent AP Stylebook to direct its usage.

Exclamation Points, !

emphatic expressions. Use the exclamation point to express high degree of surprise, incredulity or other strong emotion.

overuse. It's easy to do, and the mark will lose its meaning quickly. End mildly exclamatory sentences with a period. Do not end mildly exclamatory interjections with an exclamation point.

placement with quotation marks. Place the mark inside quotation marks when it is part of the quoted material: "How wonderful!" he exclaimed. Place the mark outside the quotation marks when it is not part of the quoted material: I loved reading Spenser's "Faerie Queene"!

miscellaneous. Do not use a comma or a period after the exclamation mark. WRONG: "Halt!", the corporal cried. RIGHT: "Halt!" the corporal cried. Do not pair the exclamation point with a question mark. WRONG: "What?!" she cried. RIGHT: "What!" she cried. RIGHT: "What?" she cried.

Hyphens, -

avoiding ambiguity. Use a hyphen whenever ambiguity would result if it were omitted: The president will speak to small-business men. (Businessmen is normally one word, but "the president will speak with small businessmen" is unclear.) He recovered his health. She recovered the sofa.

compound modifiers. When two or more words expressing a single concept precede a noun, use hyphens to link all the words in the compound except the adverb *very* and all adverbs that end in *-ly*: a first-quarter touchdown, rush-hour traffic, a very pretty horse, an easily remembered rule. Many combinations that are hyphenated before a noun are not hyphenated when they occur after a noun: The team scored in the first quarter. The traffic during rush hour is heinous. Hyphenate *well-* combinations before a noun, but not after: a well-known judge, but the judge is well known. Generally, use a hyphen in modifiers of three or more words: a know-it-all attitude, black-and-white photography, a sink-or-swim moment. Also use hyphens to avoid nonsensical terms such as *nonlife*: Make it non-life-threatening, not nonlife-threatening. Often the better choice is to rephrase, even if it means using a few more words.

compound proper nouns and adjectives. Do not use a hyphen to designate dual heritage: Irish American, African American.

prefixes and suffixes. See prefixes and suffixes and separate entries for the most frequently used prefixes and suffixes. Prefixes that generally require hyphens include *self-*, *all-*, *ex-*, *half-*. Suffixes that generally require hyphens include *-free*, *-based*, *-elect*. Defer to Merriam-Webster Dictionary for all words not occurring in this guide.

avoiding doubled vowels, tripled consonants. Examples: anti-intellectual, shell-like. But double-e combinations usually don't get a hyphen: preempted, reelected.

with numerals. Use a hyphen when large numbers ending in *-y* must be spelled out: twenty-one, sixty-five.

expressing ranges. Use a hyphen to show a range, but not when *between* or *from* precedes the numerals: The concert is 6:30-10 p.m. The concert is from 6:30 to 10 p.m. The concert will take place between 6:30 and 10 p.m.

suspensive hyphenation. Use these forms to shorten a compound modifier or a noun phrase that shares a common word: When the elements are joined by *and* or *or*, expressing more than one element: 10-, 15- or 20-minute intervals; 5- and 6-year-olds. But: The intervals are 10, 15 or 20 minutes; the children are 5 to 6 years old.

When the elements are joined by *to* or *by*, expressing a single element: a 10-to-15-year prison term; an 8-by-12-inch pan. But: The prison term is 10 to 15 years; the pan is 8 by 12 inches.

in titles. When the word before a hyphen would stand on its own as a word (i.e., not a prefix), do not capitalize the word after the hyphen. Capitalize the word after the hyphen in all other cases. Do not use hyphens to indicate subtitles.

5.3 Editorial Style Guide | Punctuation Review

miscellaneous. In some styles, a hyphen can be paired with an en dash to express a nuanced relationship between the parts of the compound word: a non-cat-and-mouse game. Because AP does not use en dashes, another hyphen is acceptable: a non-cat-and-mouse game.

Parentheses, ()

parenthetical information. Use sparingly. In general, rewrite the sentence so that the information does not have to be set off with parentheses.

with periods. Place a period outside a closing parenthesis if the material inside is not a sentence (such as this fragment). (An independent parenthetical sentence like this one takes a period before the closing parenthesis.) When a clause placed in parentheses (this one is an example) might normally qualify as a complete sentence but is dependent on the surrounding material, do not capitalize the first word or end with a period.

Periods, .

sentence termination. Use a period to end declarative and mildly imperative sentences: The stylebook is finished. Shut the book. Use an exclamation point if greater emphasis is desired for imperative sentences: Be careful! Use a period to end rhetorical and indirect questions: Why don't we go. He asked what the score was. **SPACING.** Use a single space after a period at the end of a sentence.

abbreviations. Most lowercase and two-letter uppercase abbreviations take periods. Check individual entries and Merriam-Webster Dictionary for specific abbreviations.

initials. One- and two-letter initials take periods: John F. Kennedy, T.S. Eliot. No spaces between two-letter initials. Abbreviations using only the initials of a name do not take periods: JFK, LBJ.

placement with quotation marks. Inside or outside, depending on the meaning: Who wrote "Gone with the Wind"? He asked, "How long is the book?"

spacing. Use a single space after a period at the end of a sentence.

Question Marks, ?

sentence termination. Use a question mark to end direct and interpolated questions: When will the on-ramp close? You told me — Did I hear you correctly? — that the on-ramp would be closed all weekend.

placement with quotation marks. Place within quotation marks when part of the quoted text only: Who wrote "Gone with the Wind"? He asked, "How long is the book?"

miscellaneous. The question mark supersedes the comma that normally is used when supplying attribution for a quotation: "How long is the book?" he asked.

Quotation Marks, “ ”

when not required. Original text and Q-and-A formats.

irony. Put quotation marks around a word or words used in an ironical sense: The “debate” turned into a free-for-all.

unfamiliar terms. A word or words being introduced to readers may be placed in quotation marks on first reference and then eschewed in subsequent references: Broadcast frequencies are measured in “kilohertz.”

composition titles. Put quotation marks around all titles except religious texts and books that are primarily catalogs of reference material, including almanacs, directories, dictionaries, encyclopedias, gazetteers, handbooks and similar productions: the Talmud, “The Tonight Show with

5.3 Editorial Style Guide | Punctuation Review

Jimmy Fallon,” “The Hunger Games,” the Farmer’s Almanac. Do not use quotation marks around titles of software: Windows, Adobe Acrobat. **quotations within quotations.** Alternate between double quotation marks (“ or ”) and single quotation marks (‘ or ’). Use three marks together if two quoted elements end at the same time: She said, “He told me, ‘I’m a big fan.’”

placement with other punctuation. The period and the comma always go within the quotation marks. The colon, em dash, exclamation point, question mark and semicolon go inside the quotation marks when they are part of the quoted material. They go outside when they apply to the whole sentence.

Headline. Use single quote marks in headlines.

Semicolons, ;

in a series. Use semicolons to separate elements of a series when the items in the series are long or when individual segments contain material that also must be set off by commas: This summer, we’re traveling to Carlsbad, New Mexico; Amarillo, Texas; and St. Louis, Missouri.

linking independent clauses. Use semicolons when a coordinating conjunction (i.e., *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*) is not present: The on-ramp will be closed this weekend; they are repainting the lines. If a coordinating conjunction is present, use a semicolon before it only if extensive punctuation also is required in one or more of the individual clauses: They pulled their boats from the water, sandbagged the retaining walls, and boarded up the windows; but even with these precautions, the island was hard-hit by the hurricane. If a conjunctive adverb is present (e.g., *however, moreover, etc.*), use a semicolon and set off the adverb with a comma: The day was rainy; however, we were warm by the fire. It may sometimes be better to break the clauses into different sentences.

placement with quotation marks. Place semicolons outside quotation marks unless they are part of the quoted material.

Slashes, /

descriptive phrases. 24/7, 9/11.

alternatives. Use to denote alternative words: the writer/director, and/or.

poetry. Use to denote three or fewer separate lines of poetry: Roses are red / violets are blue. Where four or more quoted lines are necessary, use block formatting.

spacing. For constructions that connect only one word on either side of the mark, no spaces are required: and/or. For quoted verse and constructions with more than one word on either side of the mark, surround the mark with one space on each side: Cold War / Red Scare era.

5.4 Editorial Style Guide | Appendix: Research Center Style

Editorial Style

Because ADOT's Research Center specializes in a particular type of publication, writers of that section should follow [The Chicago Manual of Style](#) where applicable. Please refer to this guide for transportation-specific terms because they are based on the [American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials](#) (AASHTO) style. If a transportation-specific term is not here, refer to AASHTO's style manual before proceeding either to [Merriam-Webster Dictionary or Chicago](#).

Citation Style

Use [Chicago's style](#) for citing sources.

Are text and text size accessible?

- Rule of thumb: Use a larger font size for text (18 pt or larger), sans serif fonts, and sufficient white space. Smaller text should never be smaller than 14 pt. If meeting in-person, test legibility/readability from the back of the room.
- Be consistent with fonts and font-sizes. Avoid ALL CAPS.
- Make sure to use text-boxes for text and not shapes.
- Alternative text (<alt>) provides a textual alternative to non-text content in web pages (i.e. static maps, and/or images).
- Avoid static images of text (text on an image). Informative text on an image needs to be captured in alternative text, or alt text. *Hint: In most cases, if you can't select the text with your cursor, it can't be read by a screen reader.*

Basic rules of alt text

- When using image alt text, you don't need to include
 - "Picture of" Ensure website content is compatible with assistive technologies and devices including screen readers, magnifiers, special keyboards and alternative pointing devices.
- Provide headings for data tables. Data cells should be associated with their appropriate heading so it's easier for people using screen readers to navigate and understand the data table.
- Avoid underlining or italicizing copy.
- Don't use color-coding as the only means of conveying information.
- Use "Paste without formatting" to avoid unknowingly adding formatting that can cause difficulties for screen readers.
- Share documents in .DOCX or PDF to ensure accessibility.
 - "Image of"
- Screen readers automatically announce an image. So an alternative text "image of an apple" would be read aloud by a screen reader as "image, image of an apple."
- Using correct grammar can enhance the experience for screen reader users:
 - Capitalize the first letter
 - End a whole sentence with a period.

Is writing/content accessible?

- The main points of your presentation should appear as text.
- Screen readers won't read images of text (without alt text).
- Restate the summary of information in text if you want to use an image like a graph.
- Ensure website content is compatible with assistive technologies and devices including screen readers, magnifiers, special keyboards and alternative pointing devices.
- Provide headings for data tables. Data cells should be associated with their appropriate heading so it's easier for people using screen readers to navigate and understand the data table.
- Avoid underlining or italicizing copy.
- Don't use color-coding as the only means of conveying information.
- Use "Paste without formatting" to avoid unknowingly adding formatting that can cause difficulties for screen readers.
- Share documents in .DOCX or PDF to ensure accessibility.

Are images/graphics accessible?

- Screen readers "read" images via alt text added in the code or the CMS (Content Management System).
- To add alt text, right-click on the image, click on "alt text..." then write your description of the image to be read by the screen reader.
- Check for alt text by hovering over the image with your mouse to see if the alt text appears.
- Avoid too many graphics or too much animation.
- Avoid animations or gifs that continue on a loop. They're distracting and could trigger a seizure.

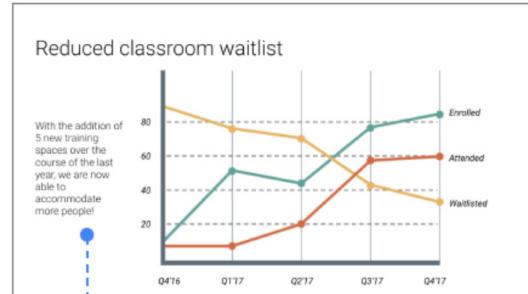
Are videos accessible?

- Videos need captions. Captions enable everyone to understand your video, including people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, or

people watching in environments that make it hard to hear audio. Transcripts are the minimum requirement for audio or video files.

Are charts/graphs accessible?

- Charts and diagrams can be difficult to decipher, especially in small fonts. If your design includes data-heavy charts or graphs, summarize in alt text. Write alt text with a short-description image summary, followed by a longer description of the key information/



Caption

results from the chart or graph as the caption. See example below.

Is there a balance of color and contrast in your presentation?

- A balance of color and contrast can help people better engage with your content.
- Colors aren't the only way to convey critical information. Relying too heavily on visual formatting, e.g. colors, excludes anyone who is color blind or unable to see the screen.
- Never rely on color or other visual formatting to convey critical information.
 - Don't: "The graph to the right illustrates revenue growth". or "Instructions for new applicants are in blue below."
- View colors in grayscale to see if they are distinguishable from each other. When in doubt, use a [color contrast analyzer](#).
- The difference between text and its background color (or between different parts of an image) is called contrast ratio. Sufficient contrast ratio can help people who have vision challenges (such as astigmatism, blindness or color blindness) see and understand your visuals.

Are hyperlinks descriptive?

- Screen readers often read links out of context from the surrounding text. That means users rely on the link text alone to clearly explain where the user will be taken or what action it triggers.
 - Do not use "click here" or text that is not clear when read out of context.
 - Do: "It's important to meet WCAG standards."
 - Don't: "It's important to meet WCAG standards. Learn more."
- A good test is to read the link by itself and pretend the surrounding text does not exist. Would you know where it goes?

This checklist is based on A and AA guidelines from the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#) – the industry standard for accessibility.