

English Club

ELT Terminology (Abbreviations and Acronyms)

A guide to widely used abbreviations and acronyms in the English Language Teaching world

Abbreviation	Description
ACTFL	American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
ALTE	Association of Language Testers in Europe
ARELS	Association of Recognised English Language Services
BAAL	British Association for Applied Linguistics
BASELT	British Association of State English Language Teaching
BC	British Council
CALL	Computer assisted language learning
CEELT	Cambridge Examination in English for Language Teachers
CELTA	Certificate in English Language Teaching for Adults (replaces CTEFLA)
CILT	Centre for Information on Language Teaching
COTE	Certificate for Overseas Teachers of English
CTEFLA	Certificate in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language to Adults (replaced by CELTA)
DELTA	Diploma in English Language Teaching for Adults (replaces DTEFLA)
DOS, DoS	Director of Studies
DOTE	Diploma for Overseas Teachers of English
DTEFLA	Diploma in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language to Adults (replaced by DELTA)
EAL	English as an additional language
EAP	English for academic purposes
EAT	European Association of Teachers
ECIS	European Council of International Schools
EFL	English as a foreign language
ELICOS	English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (Australian)
ELT	English language training / teaching
ESL	English as a second language
ESOL	English for speakers of other languages
ESP	English for specific purposes
ESU	English Speaking Union
IATEFL	International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
JALT	Japan Association for Language Teaching
JET	Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme
L1	First language
LCCIEB	London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examinations Board
PGCE	Post Graduate Certificate in Education (UK teaching qualification necessary for state sector)
RSA	The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce
TEFL	Teaching (of) English as a foreign language
TESL	Teaching (of) English as a second language
TESOL	Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language
TOEIC	Test of English for International Communication
UCLES	University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas