

Selected Spelling and Abbreviations Decisions

List of Spelling, Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Typeface Decisions for Some Words

adviser (not advisor)	cross-reference
Aegean (not Aegaeon)	crucifixion (but Jesus' Crucifixion)
Ahiqar (person)	Davidic, Davidic House
<i>Ahiqar</i> ([<i>Words of Ahiqar</i>] work is italic)	Decalogue
analogue (not analog)	defense (not defence)
ancient Near East	demotic (lowercase)
apostle (but Apostle Paul, Apostle John)	deuterocanonical
appendixes (not appendices)	Deuteronomist, Deuteronomistic
a priori (not italic)	Deuteronomistic History/Historian
Aramean (not Aramaean)	Deuteronomy, deuteronomic
archaeology	dialogue (not dialog)
Ashurbanipal	Early Bronze Age, Iron Age (but early Iron Age)
Assur (city)	empire (but Persian Empire, etc.)
Aššur (god)	<i>Enuma Elish</i>
<i>Atrahasis/Atra-ḥasis</i> (italic)	esthetic (not aesthetic)
Bedouin (both sing. and pl. in English [not Bedouins])	etiology (not aetiology)
biblical (but Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Aramaic)	exile (general), but the Exile (Babylonian, etc.)
book of Isaiah, Genesis, etc. (not Book of . . .)	Exile, exilic (but Exilic Period)
Book of the Twelve	extrabiblical
broad room (n.)	extracanoncial
broad-room (adj.)	Ezra–Nehemiah (N-dash)
bullae, bullae	Flood (Noah's)
burnt offering; <i>otherwise use</i> burned (adj. or verb)	Former Prophets
by-form	foreword (in front matter of a book)
catalog (not catalogue)	forward (not forwards; refers to direction of movement)
century: third and fourth centuries, third- to fourth-century date (in humanities, biblical studies), 3rd and 4th centuries, 3rd- to 4th-century strata (in scientific or archaeological contexts)	Genesis–Exodus (N-dash)
Chaldean (not Chaldaean)	Gentile
Chronicler (capital C)	gospel (good news)
church, but Catholic Church (denomination), First Baptist Church (proper name), universal Church,	Gospel(s) (first 4 books of NT; Gospel of Matthew, etc.)
Church Fathers	gray (not grey)
Cisjordan	Greco (not Graeco)
classics, classical (but Classical Greece)	Haggadah, haggadic
<i>Coffin Texts</i>	Halakah, halakic
co-regent, co-regency	Hammurapi (not Hammurabi)
counselor (not counsellor)	Hegira
	high priest(ess)
	history/ical (use indefinite article <i>a</i> , not <i>an</i>)
	Hiphil
	Hithpael
	Holiness Code

Hophal	oh (only capitalized when first word in sentence; usually followed by comma or, when the emphasis is strong, by an exclamation mark)
Ḥorvat (Modern Hebrew for 'ruin'; abbreviated Ḥ.)	ostracon, ostraca
indexes (not indices)	paleography (not palaeography)
Judean (not Judaeae)	paneled/paneling/paneler/panelist (not panelled, etc.)
<i>kaige</i> (lowercase, italic)	parenesis (not paraenesis)
<i>Kethiv</i>	passim (not italic, no period)
khirbet (Arabic for 'ruin'; abbreviated Kh. Qumran)	Pentateuch, pentateuchal
kingdom, Babylonian kingdom (but Kingdom of Judah,	per se (not italic)
Kingdom of Damascus)	Peshitta
king list (but Sumerian King List)	Piel
labeled/labeling/labeler (not labelled, etc.)	place-name
Latter Prophets	postbiblical
leveled/leveling/leveler (not levelled, etc.)	postdeuteronomic/istic
loanword	post-Deuteronomist
long room (n.)	postexilic (but Postexilic Period)
long-room (adj.)	practice (not practise)
Luke–Acts (N-dash)	preexilic (but Preexilic Period)
Maccabean (Maccabaeae)	prefect (not praefect)
Mandean (not Mandaeae)	pretorian/ium (not praetorian/ium)
Manichean (not Manichaeae)	priestly (but Priestly Code, Priestly Writer, Priestly
Masorah, Masoret, Masoretic	document)
medieval (not mediaeval)	Primeval History (not Primaeval)
Messiah, messianic	prologue (not prolog)
midrash, midrashic (cap when part of a title)	Proto-Semitic (capitalize with language name; otherwise, usually lowercase, e.g., proto-Canaanite, proto-Sinatic)
Mishnah, mishnaic	Psalter
modeled/modeling/modeler (not modelled, etc.)	Pseudepigrapha, pseudepigraphic
monarchy, monarchic (but United/Divided Monarchy)	Psalms (name of book)
monologue (not monolog)	psalm (nonspecific)/psalmist
moon god (n.)	Pual
moon-god (adj.)	Qal
mud brick (n.)	<i>Qere</i>
mud-brick (adj.)	Qoheleth (not Qohelet)
Mycenean (not Mycenaean)	Qur'ān (or Koran)
Nabatean (not Nabataean)	rabbi(s)/rabbinic/rabbinical (but Rabbi Cohen [specific])
Neo-Assyrian	Ramesses (person)
Neo-Babylonian	Ramses (place)
netherworld	Restoration (referring to the historical period after the Exile)
Niphal	rivald/rivaling (not rivalled, etc.)
nonfiction	<i>Sayings of the Fathers</i>
Northern Kingdom	Scripture(s), scriptural
Northwest Semitic	
O (always capitalized and never followed directly by punctuation; used chiefly in religious or poetic invocations)	

Semitic	temple (but Temple of Yahweh, Temple of Ba'al, First/Second Temple)
<i>Shema</i> ^c	
<i>sic</i> (italic, no exclamation mark)	terra-cotta (both n. and adj.; <i>not</i> terra cotta, terracotta)
Southern Kingdom	Tiglath-pileser
stele, steles (Eng.) or stela, stelae (Greek) or stele, stelai (Latin)	time frame, time lag, time scale
Sufi, Sufis	Torah
Sufism	toward (<i>not</i> towards)
sun god (n.)	Transjordan
sun-god (adj.)	traveled/traveling/traveler (not travelled, etc.)
Synoptic Gospels, the Synoptics, Synoptist (but synoptic chronology)	<i>Tukulti-Ninurta Epic</i>
<i>Tale of Aqhat</i>	unrivalled (<i>not</i> unrivalled)
Talmud, talmudic	versus (<i>not</i> italic)
Tel (Hebrew site)	world view (2 words)
Tell (Arabic site)	worshiped/worshiping/worshiper (<i>not</i> worshipped, etc.)
tell (English, normalized spelling of archaeological 'mound')	year-name
	YHWH, Yahweh

Some Common Abbreviations

A.D. (always precedes the year; use periods)	Iron I = Iron Age I
B.C./E., C.E. (with periods)	Kh. = Khirbet (Arabic for 'ruin')
ca. = circa (<i>not</i> c. or ci.)	LB IA = Late Bronze Age IA
chap. (chaps.) = chapter(s)	line (lines) note: <i>do not abbreviate</i> with l., ll. or Ll.
col. (cols.) = column(s)	LXX (typically preceded by "the")
EB = Early Bronze	m = meter (repeat the unit of measure when giving dimensions in the form 3 m x 5 m; but 3–5 m deep; 3-m wall)
e.g. (not italic, no space in middle, always use commas before and after; do not use in prose contexts; use only with "raw data")	MB = Middle Bronze Age
et al. (no period on "et"; no comma preceding the term unless it appears in a series of three or more names)	MT (typically preceded by "the") = Masoretic Text
H. = Ḥorvat (Modern Hebrew for 'ruin')	n. (nn.) = note(s)
ibid. (not italic; refers to the entire work cited immediately preceding)	obv. = obverse
idem (not italic, no period; refers to the author immediately preceding)	pl. (pls.) = plate(s)
i.e. (not italic, no space in middle, always use commas before and after; do not use in prose contexts; use only with "raw data")	repr. = reprinted
	rev. = reverse
	vs. = verso
	v. (vv.) = verse(s) (use the period)