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U	<p>(1) CFI code for a share with no restrictions.</p> <p>(2) In relation to allowance buying, abbreviation for a principal company (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s212E).</p> <p>(3) Amount of an individual's dividend income that would be chargeable to the dividend upper rate but for other provisions of the section (Income Tax Act 2007 s13A inserted by Finance Act 2016 s5).</p> <p>(4) Closing balance of unactivated cluster area allowance used in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s356JHB.</p> <p>(5) Number of days for which an asset is not available for private use by an employee, as in the formula in Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 s205A(3).</p>
UAE	United Arab Emirates.
UAE dirham	Currency of UAE.
UAH	ISO code for Ukraine hryvnia.
UAP	Upper accruals point , for national insurance.
UAR	United Arab Republic, a combined state of Egypt and Syria between 1958 and 1961.
UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter, a computer component that manages serial communication.
UB	Unemployment benefit.
UB40	Form used to claim unemployment benefit, now replaced by jobseekers allowance. The name lives on in a reggae band.
Uber	Company that provides a system whereby ordinary drivers may provide a form of taxi service.
uberrimae fidei	<p>Latin: of utmost faith.</p> <p>The term indicates exceptions to the general rule that a party to a contract need not make any disclosure to the other party. An uberrimae fidei contract may be voided if all relevant disclosures are not paid. Such contracts include insurance, family settlement, partnership, suretyship and allotment of shares.</p>
ubi aliquid conceditur, conceditur et id sine quo res ipsa esse non potest	<p>Latin: where anything is granted, that is also granted without which the thing itself is not able to exist.</p>

ubi eadem ratio ibi idem jus	Latin: like reasons make the law.
ubi jus ibi remedium	Latin: where there is a remedy there is a right.
ubique	Latin: everywhere.
ubi supra	Latin: where mentioned above.
UBR	Unified business rate.
Ubuntu	Form of Linux operating system for computers.
UC	Universal credit.
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.
UCATT	Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians. This a trade union operating in the construction industry. It was formed in 1971 from mergers of smaller unions. It became part of Unite trade union on 1 January 2017.
UCC	Union Customs Code.
UCITS	Undertakings for collective investments in transferable securities. For savings income, the term "means an undertaking for collective investment in transferable securities within the UCITS Directive " (Importing of Savings Income Information Regulations SI 2003 No 3297 reg 2(2)).
UCITS Directive	"Means Council Directive 85/611/EEC of 20 th December 1985 on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities as amended" (Importing of Savings Income Information Regulations SI 2003 No 3297 reg 2(1)).
UCL	University College, London.
UCO	Used cooking oil.
UCR	Unique Consignment Reference. This is a reference, allocated by the Customs Freight Simplified Procedures (CFSP) to an authorised trader for each import or export consignment. It can be used to trace the consignment through all the trader's records.
UDA	Ulster Defence Association.
udaler	Holder of an estate under Udal tenure.
Udal tenure	Ancient form of freehold tenure granted in Orkney and Shetland Islands.

UDC	Universal decimal classification.
UDI	Unilateral declaration of independence.
UDM	Union of Democratic Mineworker.
UDT	United Dominions Trust.
UEFA	Union of European Football Associations
UEL	Upper earnings limit , for national insurance.
UEP	Abbreviation for unauthorised employer payment used in the formula in Finance Act 2004 s213(9).
UF	United Free Church, of Scotland.
UFC	Universities Funding Council, now replaced by HEFCE.
UFEC	Unlicensed family entertainment centre.
UFPLS	Uncrystallised funds pension lump sum.
Uganda	African country. Its currency is the Uganda shilling of 100 cents. The UK has a double taxation convention of 1992.
Uganda shilling	Currency of Uganda.
UGX	ISO code for Ugandan shilling.
UHF	Ultra-high frequency.
UHT	Ultra-high temperature.
uhuru	Freedom from slavery, particularly in East Africa. The word is Swahili for "free".
UITF	Urgent Issues Task Force , part of Accounting Standards Board. This Force was disbanded from 1 January 2015.
UITF abstract	Statement from Urgent Issues Tax Force which has the force of an accounting standard . All such statements are abolished for accounting periods that start on or after 1 January 2015.
UJD	Utriusque Juris Doctor, a doctor of both canon and civil law.
UK	United Kingdom , England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, (including The Isle of Man but not the Channel Islands or Gibraltar).

UK activity	Term used in relation to diverted profits tax and defined in Finance Act 2015 s87(5).
UKAEA	United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. It is a government research organisation, formed in 1954.
UK approval certificate	<p>In relation to VAT on road fuel provided to employees, this “means a certificate issued under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) section 58(1) or (4) of the Road Traffic Act 1998; or(b) Article 31A(4) or (5) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (Value Added Tax 1994 s57(9)). <p>A similar definition is used for the taxation of company cars, this is defined in Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s171(1).</p> <p>The same definition is used in relation to capital allowances in Capital Allowances Act 2001 s268C(4).</p>
UKAR	UK Asset Resolution, a government body that holds assets which were forcibly nationalised in the banking crisis of 2008.
UK ASB system	The accounting standards and company law applicable to corporate reporting by UK companies that do not report under the IASB system.
UKBA	United Kingdom Border Agency .
UK banking group	Term used for the bank levy (Finance Act 2011 sch 19 para 8).
UK-based earnings	Term used in Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s25 to describe income which arises from UK employment by a person who also has chargeable overseas earnings .
UK Border Agency (UKBA)	Body set up on 1 April 2008 to protect the UK from import of illicit goods. Before 2008, this was undertaken by HMRC or its predecessor body, HM Customs and Excise. HMRC retains responsibility to taxes on imported goods.
UKCES	UK Commission for Employment and Skills. It closed on 16 March 2017.
UKCF	UK Community Foundation, the body that oversees community foundations .
UKCIS	UK Council for Internet Safety, a body the government announced on 26 July 2018.
UKCN	UK Competition Network.
UK companies not formed under companies legislation	<p>Term used in Companies Act 2006 from s1040.</p> <p>It refers to companies registered overseas, unregistered companies, companies registered before 1862, and companies registered by other means such as letters patent or and Act of Parliament.</p>
UK Continental Shelf (UKCS)	Region of waters surrounding the UK where the sea-bed is higher and the sea consequently shallower. This is known as a shelf sea. The UK claims mineral

rights for this shelf.

The UK continental shelf is particularly relevant in the North Sea which is a rich source of hydrocarbons whose recovery lead to significant economic benefits and tax revenues from the 1980s.

This area is also bounded by Norway, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. The boundaries between these countries have been mutually agreed.

UKCS

UK Continental Shelf.

UKCS continental shelf certificate

Certificate issued by HMRC to an employee working on the UK continental shelf. The tax provisions are given in PAYE regulations SI 2003 No 2682 s84A.

UK-established

For VAT, "a person is UK-established if the person has a business establishment, or some other fixed establishment in the United Kingdom in relation to a business carried on by that person" (Value Added Tax 1994 Sch 1 para 1(10)).

UK estate

In relation to beneficiaries' income from estates in administration, the term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s936.

UK expenditure

For the purposes of corporation tax relief on film production, this term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1185 and s1216AH.

UKFI

United Kingdom financial institution.

UK financial instrument

"Means a financial instrument that is admitted to trading on a market in the United Kingdom" (Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 s131C(6)).

UKFTT

UK First-tier Tax Tribunal.

UK furnished holiday lettings business

"Means a UK property business so far as it consists of the commercial letting of **furnished holiday accommodation**" (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s748(5)).

The term is also used in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s65.

UK GAAP

UK **generally accepted accounting principles**, as defined in Income Tax Act 2007 s997(2) and Corporation Tax Act 2010 s1127(2).

UK Government Investments Ltd

Company registered on 11 September 2015 to hold investments for the government. Grants, loans and other payments may be made under the provisions of Enterprise Act 2016 s36.

UKIP

United Kingdom Independence Party, a political party formed to get the UK out of the European Union.

UKITA

UK IT Association.

UK IT Association (UKITA)	<p>“A private sector organisation responsible for the development of a credible and thriving IT [information technology] industry across the United Kingdom” (UKITA website).</p> <p>The organisation was formed in 1999 and took its present name in 2006.</p>
UKLA	<p>United Kingdom Listing Authority.</p> <p>The current authority is the Financial Conduct Authority.</p>
UK-linked	<p>Tax term for a description of debt subject to tax provisions in Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s33.</p>
UK net debt	<p>In tax, a figure that is used in relation to worldwide debt cap as set out in Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Act 2010 Part 7.</p>
UK(NOR)	<p>Not ordinarily resident in the UK.</p>
UK office of exit	<p>Place in the UK where goods may leave on behalf of any EU-based exporter.</p>
UK oil licence	<p>The tax provisions for capital allowances are given in Capital Allowances Act 2001 from s410.</p>
UKOITC	<p>United Kingdom Oil Industry Taxation Committee.</p>
UKPE	<p>UK permanent establishment.</p>
UK permanent establishment	<p>In context of loss relief for companies, “any permanent establishment through which [a company] carries on a trade in the United Kingdom” (Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s403G(6)).</p>
UK property business	<p>“A company’s UK property business consists of —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) every business which the company carries on for generating income from land in the United Kingdom, and(b) every transaction which the company enters into for that purpose otherwise than in the course of such a business” <p>(Corporation Tax Act 2009 s205).</p> <p>An identical definition for income tax is given in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s264.</p>
UK property business loss	<p>“A loss made in a UK property business in the surrender period” (Corporation Tax Act 2010 s102(1)).</p> <p>For the purpose of land remediation relief, this term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1179.</p>
UK public revenue dividend	<p>For income tax, the term “means any income from securities which —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) is paid out of the public revenue of the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland, but(b) is not interest on local authority stock” (Income Tax Act 2007 s891).

UKQI	UK Quality Infrastructure, a procedure formed to maintain standards in measurement. It was created on 8 June 2015.
Ukraine	Eastern country that become independent from Russia in 1991 though territorial disputes between the countries remain. Its currency is the hryvnia of 100 kopykas. The UK has a double taxation convention of 1993.
UK-registered company	For company law, “means a company registered under this Act. The expression does not include an overseas company that has registered particulars under section 1046” (Companies Act 2006 s1158). Note that a wider definition applies for the purposes of corporation tax.
UK related company	Company that is UK-resident or trades in the UK through a permanent establishment (Corporation Tax Act 2010 s134). The term is relevant for consortium relief .
UK-related expenses	Term used in relation to diverted profits tax and defined in Finance Act 2015 s87(5).
UK-related sales revenue	Term used in relation to diverted profits tax and defined in Finance Act 2015 s87(5).
UK-related supplies	Term used in relation to diverted profits tax and defined in Finance Act 2015 s87(5).
UK-relieved funds	Term used in relation to overseas transfer charge for pensions. It is defined in Finance Act 2004 s242B as inserted by Finance Act 2017 Sch 4 para 14.
UKRI	United Kingdom Research and Innovation.
UKSC	Neutral citation for case reports from UK Supreme Court. The full citation also gives the year and the number of the case.
UK sector of the continental shelf	“The areas designated under section 1(7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964” (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s41(2)).
UK securities	“Means securities of — (a) the government of the United Kingdom, (b) a local authority in the United Kingdom, (c) another public authority in the United Kingdom, or (d) a UK resident company or other UK resident body” (Income Tax Act 2007 s566(3)). Sub-section (4) adds “but UK securities does not include UK shares ”. The same definition appears in Income Tax Act 2007 s919(6) in relation to manufactured payments.
UK shares	“Means shares in a UK resident company” (Income Tax Act 2007 s566(1)).

UK sub-group	Term used for the bank levy. It is defined in Finance Act 2011 Sch 19 para 17(4).
UK tax evasion offence	“Means — (a) an offence of cheating the public revenue, or (b) an offence under the law of any part of the United Kingdom consisting of being knowingly concerned in, or in taking steps with a view to, the fraudulent evasion of a tax” (Criminal Finances Act 2017 s45(4)).
UK tax evasion facilitation offence	“Means — (a) being knowingly concerned in, or in taking steps with a view to, the fraudulent evasion of a tax by another person, (b) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of a UK tax evasion offence , or (c) being involved art and part [sic] in the commission of an offence consisting of being knowingly concerned in, or in taking steps with a view to, the fraudulent evasion of a tax” (Criminal Finances Act 2017 s45(5)).
UK Transit	A procedure for moving goods under customs control when import or export formalities are carried out away from the place of importation or exportation, and the movement does not involve another European Union (EU) Member State. Also known as National Transit.
UK UCITS	For child trust funds, this term is defined in Child Trust Funds Regulations SI 2004 No 1450 reg 2(1)(c).
UK Uncut	Tax protest movement in UK.
UKUT	Part of citation for case reports for hearings of an Upper Tribunal.
UL	(1) Upper limit. (2) Underwriters Laboratories
ULEV	Ultra low emission vehicle.
ULEZ	Ultra low emission zone.
ullage	Difference between the amount of liquor a barrel can contain and the amount it does contain.
ULS	Unduly Lenient Sentence (Scheme).
ULSD	Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel
ULSP	Ultra Low Sulphur Petrol.

Ulster	The northernmost part of Ireland, comprising nine counties. Six counties are in Northern Ireland (and thus in the UK), namely: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. Three are in the Irish Republic: Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.
Ulster Bank	Irish commercial bank, originally founded in 1836.
Ulster Savings Certificates	"Means savings certificates issued or treated as issued under section 15 of the Exchequer and Financial Provisions Act (Northern Ireland) 1950" (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1282(6)).
Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	Political party of Northern Ireland. It governed Northern Ireland from 1921 to 1972. Since 1999, it is the second largest unionist party behind the Democratic Unionist Party. Since 2017, it has not had any seats in the UK House of Commons.
ultimate holding company	Holding company which owns a company and all its other parent companies. So if A owns B who owns C who owns D, A is the ultimate holding company of B, C and D, each of whom must state this fact in their published accounts.
ultima voluntas testatoris est perimplenda secundum veram intentionem suam	Latin: effect is to be given to the last will of a testator according to his true intention.
ultimus haeres	Latin: ultimate heir. This refers to the state or crown. The term is particularly used in Scots law for someone who dies intestate or without next of kin.
Ultonian	Of or pertaining to Ulster, or a person who lives there.
ultrafiche	Microfiche of a normal size but where more data are recorded.
ultra low emission zone (ULEZ)	Area of London where an additional charge is made for polluting vehicles. It was introduced in the congestion charging zone from 8 April 2019. From 25 October 2021, it is extended to a larger area basically bound by the North Circular Road and South Circular Road. It is additional to the congestion charge, low emission zone and low pollution zone.
ultra low sulphur diesel	A more environmentally-friendly replacement for Diesel Engine Road Vehicles (DERV) with a much lower sulphur content.
ultra low sulphur diesel oil	"Means gas oil: (a) the sulphur content of which does not exceed 0.005 per cent by weight or is nil; (b) the density of which does not exceed 835 kilograms per cubic metre at a temperature of 15°C; and (c) of which not less than 95 per cent by volume distils at a temperature not exceeding 345°C" (Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 s1(6)).
ultra low sulphur petrol (ULSP)	Unleaded petrol of which: (a) the sulphur content does not exceed 0.005 per

cent by weight or is nil; and (b) the aromatics content does not exceed 35 per cent by volume.

ultra-mobile personal computer (UMPC)

Very small and light personal computer.

ultra-violet feature

Security feature of Bank of England notes.

If a modern note is put under a light with a frequency around 365 nanometres, the value of the note will appear in red and green.

ultra vires

Latin: beyond the power.

The term refers to an act in excess of the authority of the body and which is therefore void.

It was a particular issue in company law where a company could only raise funds and trade for the purpose or purposes set out in the objects clause of the memorandum of association. An extreme case was *Ashbury Railway Carriage and Iron Company Ltd v Riche [1875]*. The company was constituted to make railway carriages (with some related activities). The company then entered into a contract with Riche to run a railway line. When the company repudiated the contract, Riche unsuccessfully sued. The House of Lords held that the company had no power to make or ratify the contract.

Companies Act 1965 s20 largely repealed the ultra vires doctrine for third parties. The doctrine remains relevant in some other countries and in some other contexts.

UM

Abbreviation: ouguiya, currency of Mauritania.

umbrella contract

Term used for a **contract** that covers more than one provision. A common example is in the cleaning industry when an umbrella contract covers the time when the worker is working and the time between assignments.

umbrella group

A group of representatives of small bodies that acts for the interests of those bodies.

umbrella organisation

Another name for an **umbrella group**.

umbrella scheme

Authorised unit trust where participants' contributions are put into separate pools and where the participant may transfer between pools.

The capital gains tax implications are set out in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s99A.

For child trust funds, a definition is given in Child Trust Funds Regulations SI 2004 No 1450 reg 2(1)(c).

UMGO

Unmarked Gas Oil

UMIST

University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

UMKO

Unmarked Kerosene.

UMP	Amount of unauthorised payment from a pension fund. This abbreviation is used in the formula in Finance Act 2004 s210(9).
umpire	Outside sport, the term sometimes means an arbitrator who resolves an issue between two parties when their own representatives do not agree.
umpteen	Colloquial term for an indefinite large number.
Umst	Abbreviation of Umsatzsteuer .
Umsatzsteuer (Umst)	German term for "value added tax".
UMTS	Universal Mobile Telecommunications System, a third generation mobile phone system.
UN	United Nations.
unable or virtually unable to walk	<p>Term used in determining the amount of mobility component that may be paid to a claimant for disability living allowance. Someone who meets this condition qualifies for the higher rate of mobility component.</p> <p>The claimant must be either unable to walk at all, or be very limited in distance, speed or time for which the claimant can walk. The higher rate may also be claimed where, although walking is possible, the exertion in doing so is detrimental to the claimant's health.</p> <p>For speed and distance, the law sets no formal limits. In practice, though, this can mean a maximum limit of 50 metres a speed of 60 metres per minute.</p> <p>Someone who has no feet because both legs are missing from above the ankle qualifies for the higher rate, even if they are able to walk using prostheses.</p>
unactivated allowance condition	In relation to oil and gas companies, this term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s332I(2).
unadjusted trial balance	Trial balance which has not been adjusted to reflect the usual end-of-year adjustments such as for depreciation, accruals, prepayments and closing stock.
unadministered estate	For inheritance tax, "means all the property for the time being held by personal representatives as such, excluding property devolving on them otherwise than as assets for the payment of debts and excluding property that is the subject of a specific disposition, and making the allowance for outstanding charges on residue and for any adjustments between capital and income remaining to be made in due course of administration" (Inheritance Tax Act 1984 s91(2)(a)).

unallocated cash	Entry on a statement recording money received from a customer which has not been allocated against outstanding invoices.
unallocated payments	Part of the customer accounting record held by HMRC on its computer system for each taxpayer. (Inspectors' Manual at DMBM 101010).
unallocated precious metals	Term used for a special provision of VAT law. There is a supply if a buyer has the right to call for delivery but has not been allocated any particular metal. The scheme originally applied just to gold, silver, platinum and palladium. From 1 December 1994, it also applies to rhodium, ruthenium, osmium and iridium.
unallowable purpose	In terms of tax avoidance and loan relationships, the term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s442.
unallowable purpose rule	Anti-avoidance provision in relation to controlled foreign companies . The rule is given in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s441. HMRC Guidance Note of 3 January 2014 explains how this rule interacts with the treatment of financing arrangements.
unallowable purpose test	Provision in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s684 (as inserted by Finance Act 2010) that may disallow tax relief for a transaction in securities .
unanimous	Of one mind. The term refers to a decision which everyone supports without any dissent or abstention.
unapportionable central overheads	In management accounting, costs that do not relate to a single service or services, and so are held centrally rather than in a cost centre .
unappropriated profits	Profits which have yet to be allocated as dividends or retained profit.
unappropriated surplus	Term used in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s444AL(3) in relation to the taxation of mutual life assurance business.
unattached officer (UO)	Excise officer who checked distilleries, working with the officer attached to the distillery. They were introduced from 1945 when Sunday distilling became legal. They were phased out during the 1960s and abolished by 1971.
unaudited	Description of accounts which have yet to be audited. Such accounts may be issued on a provisional basis provided it is stated that they are not audited. Unaudited accounts may not be put to members of a company or organisation for approval.
unauthorised	Description of anything which has been done without the proper authority.
unauthorised deduction	In employment, any deduction from an employee's pay which is not authorised by the employee or by law. Under Employment Rights Act 1996 s13, such a deduction is unlawful even if the employee owes money to the

employer.

unauthorised employer payment

Payment by a registered pension scheme that is an occupational pension scheme to or in respect of a sponsoring employer or a former sponsoring employer which is not an authorised employer payment, or anything which is treated as being an unauthorised payment to a sponsoring employer or former sponsoring employer under Part 4 of Finance Act 2004.

The term is defined in Finance Act 2004 s160(3).

unauthorised licensable activities

Offence of carrying on a licensable activities without the necessary licence (Licensing Act 2003 s136).

unauthorised member payment

Payment by a registered pension scheme to or in respect of a member or a former member of that pension scheme that is not an authorised member payment, or anything which is treated as being an unauthorised payment to or in respect of a member or former member under Part 4 of Finance Act 2004.

The term is defined in Finance Act 2004 s160(2).

unauthorised overdraft

Overdraft which the bank has not agreed in advance but is prepared to allow, usually at a high interest rate and with hefty bank charges.

unauthorised payments charge

Tax due under Finance Act 2004 s208 on either unauthorised member payments or unauthorised employer payments.

“A charge to income tax, to be known as the unauthorised payments charge, arises when an unauthorised payment is made by a registered pension scheme” (Finance Act 2004 s208(1)).

The rate of tax is 40% of the unauthorised payment (Finance Act 2004 s208(5)).

unauthorised payments surcharge

Tax due under Finance Act 2004 s209 that is paid in addition to the **unauthorised payments charge**.

The tax is due where total unauthorised payments go over a set limit in a set period of time of no more than 12 months. The rate of tax is 15% of the unauthorised payments, giving a total tax charge of 55%.

“A charge to income tax, to be known as the unauthorised payments surcharge, arises where a surchargeable unauthorised payment is made by a registered pension scheme” (Finance Act 2004 s209(1)).

unauthorised purchase

When an employee or equivalent ostensibly buys goods or makes a contract without authority.

unauthorised shares

Term used in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 Sch 10 para 6 in relation to **profit-sharing schemes**.

unauthorised unit trust (UUT) **Unit trust** that has not been authorised under Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. An unauthorised trust cannot be marketed to the public and is subject to different regulatory rules.

A UUT has more freedom in how to invest than an authorised unit trust. This has to be balanced against restrictions on marketing.

For tax purposes, there are three types of UUT:

- exempt UUTs (EUUTs)
- non-exempt UUTs (NEUUTs)
- mixed UUTs (MUUTs).

The regime for UUTs changed on 6 April 2014, when the previous provisions in Income Tax Act 2007 ss941-943D were repealed by SI 2013 No 2819, subject to transitional provisions in SI 2014 No 2819.

unavailable For assets used by an employee, this term is defined in Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 s205A as inserted by Finance Act 2017 s8(3).

When an employer provides an asset to an employee without the employee acquiring ownership, there may be a tax liability on 20% of the asset's value. This charge does not apply for periods when the asset is unavailable for private use.

unavoidable cost In management accounting, a cost that is not avoided by taking a particular action.

unbalanced Not balanced. Description of accounts where the figures do not add up as they should. This indicates an error.

An unbalanced figure may be accepted if:

- the difference is small;
- there is no reason to believe that the difference is from two larger amounts;
- there is no reason to believe that the difference indicates a failure to keep proper records; and
- the cost of finding the difference is disproportionate to the amount involved.

unbanked Description of cash and cheques in someone's possession waiting to be paid into a bank account.

unborn widow Problem that once arose under the law for **perpetuities**.

A person may leave estate to a son then living, then to his wife (not yet known), and then to their children. The wife may not even be born at the time, and may outlive other beneficiaries by more than 21 years. Before the law changed in 1964, such a bequest would be void.

uncalled Amount of share capital which the shareholder has yet to contribute. A share may be sold for £2 payable in calls of 70p, 70p and 60p. If only the first call has been paid, the uncalled balance is £1.30 per share.

uncalled share capital This term is defined in Companies Act 2006 s547 with the words "and uncalled share capital is to be construed accordingly". The rest of the section defines **called share capital**. The presumption therefore is that uncalled share capital

is any share capital that does not come within the statutory definition of called share capital.

uncertainty

In accounting, this usually refers to uncertainty about the tax treatment of an item or transaction. The International Accounting Standards Board produced IFRIC 23 in 2017 to deal with this issue from 1 January 2019.

unclaimed allowance

In relation to research and development, "means any part of the allowance to which the person is entitled in respect of the qualifying expenditure but which has not been claimed" (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s442(4)).

uncle

Relation. Either a parent's brother or the husband of a parent's sister.

Tax law sometimes regards uncles as within the scope of relations for **connected persons** purposes. An example is dispositions for inheritance tax.

Historically, the term has been used as slang for a pawnbroker.

uncleared cheque

Cheque that has been issued but not cleared by the bank.

uncleared effects

Payment made into your bank but which has yet to appear on the bank statement.

uncommercial trade

Trade which is not run on a commercial basis, such as a hobby. Losses from such activity may not be offset against other profits (Income Tax Act 2007 s66).

unconditional discount

Term used in VAT notice 700 for a discount with no conditions. VAT is charged on the discounted price.

unconditional obligation

In relation to **tax-generated agricultural expenses**, means "an obligation which may not be varied or extinguished by the exercise of a right (whether under the contract or otherwise)" (Finance Act 2012 s10(7)).

unconscionable

One of the three conditions set out in Taxes Management Act 1970 Sch 1AB para 3A for HMRC to grant special relief for discharging a tax assessment or repaying tax.

Condition A (given in para 3A(4)) is that "it would be unconscionable for the Commissioners to seek to recover the amount (or to withhold payment of it, if it has already been paid)".

The meaning of the word was considered by the tax tribunal in the case *Clark [2015] TC 4509*. The tribunal held that the dictionary definition applied, namely completely unreasonable, unreasonably excessive, or inordinate or outrageous.

unconsolidated

Accounts of individual companies within a group which have yet to be put together as **consolidated accounts**.

unconsolidated subsidiary

Subsidiary company whose accounts have yet to be consolidated with other group companies into **consolidated accounts**.

uncovered bear	Someone short selling a security which he does not own in the expectation of being able to buy it later at a lower price.
UNCTAD	United Nations Council on Trade and Development, an organisation within the United Nations. It is primarily responsible for promoting the integration of developing countries into the global economy in ways that lead to sustainable development.
uncrystallised funds	<p>Funds held in respect of the member under a money purchase arrangement that have not as yet been used to provide that member with a benefit under the scheme (so have not crystallised), as defined in paragraph 8(3) of Schedule 28 to the Finance Act 2004. These are defined differently for cash balance arrangements. Here it is what funds there would be if the member decided to draw benefits on a particular date not the funds actually held in the cash balance arrangement at that time.</p> <p>The provisions were amended by Taxation of Pensions Act 2014 from s53 with effect from 6 April 2015.</p>
uncrystallised funds lump sum death benefit	<p>A lump sum benefit paid from a money purchase arrangement following the death of the scheme member before the age of 75 (and within two years of that date of death) from any uncrystallised funds the member held in that arrangement at the point of death, and as defined in paragraph 15, Schedule 29 to the Finance Act 2004.</p>
uncrystallised funds pension lump sum (UFPLS)	<p>The amount of a pension fund that is tax-free when taken as a lump sum.</p> <p>From 6 April 2015, there is no restriction on the amount of a money purchase pension fund that may be taken as a lump sum. It remains the law that only 25% of the fund is tax-free. This is known as the UFPLS. The balance is taxed at the person's marginal rate of tax.</p>
unction	Anointing or the oil so used. By extension, the term is applied to anything that conveys grace or forgiveness.
undated	Description of anything which bears no date, such as a document whose origin is not known or a financial instrument with no set date for redemption or realisation.
undated bond	Financial instrument which has no maturity date . Such a bond may usually be redeemed at any time of the bearer's choice.
undecimal	Pertaining to the number eleven.
unde nihil labet	Latin: whence she has nothing. The term was mainly used before 1860 in respect of a widow's rights to property.
underagent	Subordinate agent.

underbidder	Person who offers the second highest bid in an auction.
undercapitalised	Description of a business or venture which has insufficient capital. Such a business may survive and eventually prosper but is likely to struggle in its early years because of its problems of managing with insufficient resources.
undercharge	Charge less than the amount properly required.
underground duct	This is listed in Capital Allowances Act 2001 s23 List C as an item that is not affected by the provisions of s21 (buildings) or s22 (structures). This means that its eligibility for capital allowance depends on the nature and purpose of the item.
under-hedged	Description of a risk for which there is insufficient hedging. Where there is a part of a risk transfer scheme, it may be caught by anti-avoidance regulations in Finance Act 2010 s46 and Sch 16.
underlease	Lease from a tenant to a subtenant.
underlying chain payment	In relation to a worker's services provided to the public sector by a personal service company, the term is defined in Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 s61S(5) as inserted by Finance Act 2017 Sch 1.
underlying income or gain	In relation to the remittance basis, this is given a specific meaning in Income Tax Act 2007 s809VM(5).
underlying inflation	Rate of inflation which ignores some identified factors. The term is most commonly used to describe the retail prices index but excluding mortgage repayments. This is known as RPIX.
underlying subject matter	The property to which a future, option, contract for difference, or similar financial instrument relates. The term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s583.
under-occupied	Domestic property that is not fully utilised, such as having more bedrooms than are needed for the household. From April 2013, housing benefit is restricted for under-occupied homes.
underpants	A fanciful measure of economic prosperity, based on the theory that people buy more underwear when the economy is booming.
under-recovery	In management accounting, when the predetermined overhead recovery rate proves to be less than the actual overhead rate.
under-resourced	Lacking sufficient resources to perform a task properly.
underspend	Spending less than was intended or permitted.

understandability

Qualitative characteristic of financial statements, understandable by users. It is one of the four qualities of **accounting information** required by **Statement of Principles**.

“The presentation of information in a way that makes it comprehensible by users who have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence” (FRS 102 glossary).

The statement also says “the information provided in financial statements should be presented in a way that makes it comprehensible by users who have a reasonable knowledge of business and activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence. However, the need for understandability does not allow relevant information to be omitted on the grounds that it may be too difficult for some users to understand” (FRS 102 section 2.4).

understate

Express a figure at less than its true amount. This may arise from caution or from a desire to represent a result as being better than it would otherwise appear.

undertaking

General

Any business or commercial operation. This term is favoured in recent accounting standards.

An official definition is “a body corporate, a partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit” (FRS 2 para 16).

In company law, the term “means —

(a) a body corporate or partnership, or

(b) an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit” (Companies Act 2006 s1161(1)).

For the definitions for **small business** and **micro business**, a statutory definition is given in Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 s33(6).

Law

Promise given, particularly one which is legally binding.

Funeral directors

The business of funeral directors.

This is usually an exempt supply. Further details are given in VAT notice 701/32.

undertaking expenditure

In relation to a cap on first year allowances for zero-emission goods vehicles, “means —

(a) expenditure incurred by the investor,

(b) if the investor is a partnership, expenditure incurred (at any time) by a person who is a partner enterprise forming part of the investor at the time the current expenditure is incurred, and

(c) if the investor and the one or more persons together form, or have at any time formed, an undertaking, expenditure which is —

(i) incurred by that undertaking, or

(ii) incurred by any of those other persons at a relevant time".
(Capital Allowances Act 2001 s212T(2)).

undertaking to make good any tax loss

Term used in Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s61C(5) in relation to **managed service companies** whose meaning is obvious.

under the counter

Unofficial trade in shops, particularly in contravention of war time rations.

under the hammer

Description of goods that are to be auctioned.

under the plough

Description of farm land which is used to produce crops, including fields which are currently fallow.

under-used holiday accommodation

Furnished holiday accommodation where the letting condition is not met. It may still qualify for tax relief under Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Act 2010 s326 and s326A and Corporation Tax Act 2009 s268A.

undervaluation

Valuation of an asset at less than its true worth, such as when a bank undervalues a property to justify a higher rate of mortgage interest.

undervalue

Value below the market value.

Corporation Tax Act 2009 s222 contains provisions relating to a lease at undervalue.

undervalued

(1) In accounts, description of an asset which is stated at less than its full value.

(2) In human resources, description of a person who is (or who feels) not properly appreciated.

underwater option

"A share option whose **exercise price** is higher than the current market value of the shares" (glossary in Inspector's Manual at BIM 44001).

underwrite

Accept responsibility for something, particularly someone who agrees to make up a loss if a venture raises insufficient money.

underwriter

A technician trained in evaluating risks and determining rates and coverage for them. The term derives from the practice at Lloyd's of each person willing to accept a portion of the risk writing his name under the description of the risk.

Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

Security company in USA that certifies American safes.

underwriting

An agreement by a fund manager to buy any unsold new issue of shares in exchange for a fee.

underwriting agreement

Agreement to **underwrite** an issue of new shares.

underwriting bar	The amount to which the benefits pertaining to a member of a group insurance scheme may increase without the need for further underwriting.
underwriting commission	Commission paid to a person who agrees to underwrite a new issue of shares.
underwriting decision	A decision made by insurance underwriters based on evidence supplied. In group insurance, it is often used to refer to decisions pertaining to individual members based on medical evidence.
underwriting fee	Fee charged for the services of underwriting .
underwriting syndicate	Group of people who combine to provide underwriting services.
underwriting year	"Means the calendar year" (Finance Act 2007 Sch 11 para 3(9)).
undeveloped market value of the interest	In relation to capital allowances in mineral extraction, this term is defined in Capital Allowances Act 2001 s404(2) and 424(2).
undifferentiated income	When income from more than source is regarded as coming from a single source.
undischarged bankrupt	Person who is bankrupt from which he has not yet been discharged. He is under severe restrictions.
undistributable profit	Net profit of a business which cannot be distributed as dividend or other distribution.
undistributable reserve	Fund held by a business which it may use for its business but which cannot be distributed to shareholders. It is usually the same as a capital reserve . For net asset restriction , the term is defined in Companies Act 2006 s831(4).
undistributed profit	Net profit which a company has decided not to distribute as dividends to shareholders but to keep as retained profit .
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme, a programme of United Nations . Its goals include the reduction of poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women.
undrinkable sediment	This is produced in cask conditioned beer . Customs notice 226 explains that beer duty is relieved on this sediment. There is no set procedure for determining the amount, though the supplier must satisfy Customs that the method used is fair. A publican to whom such beer is sold must be notified of the quantity of beer on which duty has been paid. Customs do not accept that there is undrinkable sediment in polypins, mini-pins or bottle-conditioned beer.

UNDRO	United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation.
undue influence	Persuading someone to make a contract in a manner which goes beyond what is lawful.
Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme (ULS)	Legal procedure by which a sentence that appears to be unduly lenient may be reviewed with a view to imposing a less lenient sentence. The scheme allows anyone to ask the Attorney-General to consider the matter. The Attorney-General may then refer the matter to the Court of Appeal.
unearned income	<p>Income which is regarded as not being derived from the efforts of the recipient. In its later years, the term investment income was usually preferred.</p> <p>Historically such income was subject to income tax at a higher rate until the abolition of investment income surcharge from 6 April 1984. Since then much unearned income has become taxed at <i>lower</i> rates than earned income. The distinction is now largely irrelevant.</p> <p>Earned income included all forms of investment income, rent, licence fees and royalties (unless the taxpayer created the work).</p>
unearned increment	Increase in the value of land and buildings which is not attributable to any action by the owner.
unearned premium	That portion of a premium already received by the insurer for which protection has not yet been provided.
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - one of the regional commissions of the United Nations. UNECE was established in 1947 and it currently has fifty-five member states. Its main goal is to encourage greater economic co-operation between member states, mainly through the development of conventions, regulations and standards.
UNEDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport - more commonly know as Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT).
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force.
unemployment benefit (UB)	<p>Old social security benefit, now replaced by jobseeker's allowance from 1996. It was introduced on 5 July 1948 when the rate for a man was £1 6s (£1.30) a week.</p> <p>UB was payable after three waiting days for up to 312 days in any one period of interrupted employment. It was a requirement that the claimant had paid sufficient class 1 national insurance.</p>
unemployment compensation	US equivalent of jobseeker's allowance or unemployment benefit. The

compensation is paid under the US law of Social Security Act 1935. Each state is responsible for its own programme subject to federal guidelines.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme.

UNESCAP United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

unexhausted child trust fund business loss

Term defined in Finance Act 2007 Sch 7 para 83(3) in relation to carrying forward unused non-pension business loans.

unexhausted individual savings account business loss

Term defined in Finance Act 2007 Sch 7 para 83(2) in relation to carrying forward unused non-pension business loans.

unexhausted life reinsurance business loss

Term defined in Finance Act 2007 Sch 7 para 83(4) in relation to carrying forward unused non-pension business loans.

unexhausted overseas life insurance business loss

Term defined in Finance Act 2007 Sch 7 para 83(5) in relation to carrying forward unused non-pension business loans.

unexpended consideration

Term used in relation to **compulsory acquisition of land**. The implications for capital gains tax are given in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s247.

unexpired cost

Net book value of a fixed asset which has yet to be written off to the profit and loss account as the expense of depreciation.

unexplained wealth order (UWO)

Order that may be made by the High Court on application from HMRC or another enforcement agency that requires an individual to explain the source of his or her apparent wealth. Such orders may be made from 31 January 2018.

The requirements for issuing such an order are that:

- there are reasonable ground for suspecting that an individual holds property
- the value of the property is at least £50,000
- the Court is satisfied that the known sources of lawfully obtained income are insufficient to obtain the property
- the person is a **politically exposed person**
- there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person has been involved in serious crime, not necessarily in the UK.

The law is Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 s362A as inserted by Criminal Finances Act 2017 s1.

UWOs have been nicknamed McMafia law.

The first person to have assets seized following an UWO was an unnamed woman in July 2018 who is believed to have obtained £22 million of

UK property from overseas corruption.

unfair competition

Competition to a business which is on unfair terms, such as when a competitor does not incur necessary costs of complying with the law.

unfair contract term

A term in a contract which is unenforceable either because it seeks to avoid liability for death, or because it is unreasonable. This provision applies under Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 but only where the term appears in a standard contract issued by a business, and the customer is a consumer.

unfair contract terms

A printed term in a **consumer** contract which the business person seeks to impose on the consumer.

Under Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977, such a provision is of no effect if the contract term seeks to:

- avoid liability for death or personal injury (s2);
- avoid liability when the business is at fault (s3);
- unreasonably indemnify a third party (s4);
- restrict statutory liability for faulty goods (s5).

unfair dismissal

Dismissal of an employee for an improper reason. This has been illegal since 1971.

unfair prejudice

Action taken by the majority shareholders to the disadvantage of minority shareholders.

The minority holders have statutory protection under Companies Act 2006 from s994.

unfair relationship

New Consumer Credit Act test from 6 April 2007, whose non-compliance can make an agreement unenforceable.

unfair relationship between creditors and debtors

Provisions of Consumer Credit Act 1974 s140A where a consumer credit agreement contains terms unfair to the consumer.

unfair terms

In relation to consumer contracts, the law is contained in Consumer Rights Act 2015 from s61.

“A term is unfair if, contrary to the requirement of good faith, it causes a significant imbalance in the parties’ rights and obligations under the contract to the detriment of the consumer.” (Consumer Rights Act 2015 s62(4)).

unfavourable

Description of a departure from a budgeted or forecast figure which is to the financial disadvantage of the business.

unfavourable variance

Variance from the budget which is to the financial detriment of the business, such as lower sales or higher costs.

unfinished beer

Beer that is not yet ready to drink but where **beer duty** may be payable (Customs notice 226).

unfitness	In relation to disqualification of company directors, unfitness is determined in accordance with Disability Discrimination Act 1995 from s12, including s12C as added by Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 s105.
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund. (The initials were retained from its former name of United Nations Fund for Population Activities.)
unfunded debt	Debt which requires no particular measures for its repayment. The term is commonly used for short-term borrowing where the amount is recoverable from an insurance claim.
unfurnished letting	The provision of unfurnished letting with some administrative work was held not to be a trade. Income was investment income of rent. <i>(Pairceir v EM. Irish case. HC(1) 1971).</i>
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact.
ungeared	Description of the capital of a business which has no borrowings.
unguaranteed residual value	Amount of residual value of a lease asset whose realisation is not certain.
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission [or Commissioner] for Refugees.
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund. (The initials are retained from its former name of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.)
Unicode	In computing, an international standard where characters are represented by 16-bit codes. This includes characters in every alphabet system of the world. Spaces have been left for further characters to be introduced.
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization.
unicorn	Term that started to be used from 2015 for a large fast-growing privately-owned business, typically with a value of more than \$1 billion. Such businesses are often in technology, and have yet to earn a profit.
unified business rate (UBR)	<p>A replacement for the rates as charged to businesses. The main change was that the rate is set nationally by the government to stop local authorities imposing punitive rates on businesses, who have no vote, rather than on individuals. The government redistributes the business revenue. This is now more commonly referred to as national non-domestic rates.</p> <p>The rates are an ancient tax in Britain, dating back to the Poor Laws of 1572 and 1601. Business rates were introduced by Local Government Finance Act 1988 from 1990, replacing the General Rate Act 1967.</p> <p>From 1 April 2013, a new system of business rates is introduced.</p>
unified management	"Unified management does not arise solely because one undertaking manages another" (FRS 2 para 12). See managed on a unified basis .

unified tax System of income tax used from 1973. This replaced the previous system of allowing some income to be tax-free with a less complicated system of taxing all income above various allowances.

uniform

General

Form of dress that identifies the function of the wearer.

To avoid possible charges of discrimination, a uniform should be functional, comfortable and smart. There should be no significant difference in these qualities between men's and women's uniforms. It is advisable for staff to be consulted on the introduction or change in uniform.

Benefit in kind

For tax purposes, the provision of a uniform does not constitute a taxable benefit in kind. This applies to repairs and laundry of uniforms. If the employee provides the uniform, the employee may claim tax relief. These provisions extend to **corporate clothing**, but not to ordinary clothing which an employer may require, such as requiring a pinstripe suit, or black skirt and white blouse.

Provided the clothing is not **everyday wardrobe** items, its cost is tax-deductible. The leading case is *Mallalieu v Drummond [1983] 57TC330*. The matter is explained in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM37910. The manual gives as examples a nurse's uniform and waiter's tailed coat.

For manual workers, the cost of uniform and its laundry is usually given as a fixed annual allowance.

VAT

For VAT purposes, there is no taxable supply when an employer provides a uniform to staff. In the VAT case, *French Connection Ltd [2015] TC 4367*, it was held that requiring sales staff to wear the company's latest fashions did not make those clothes uniforms, even though the requirement had a commercial purpose.

Crime

It is an offence to wear a police, military or similar uniform falsely to represent oneself as holding the attendant rank (Official Secrets Act 1920 s1).

It is an offence to wear a uniform in connection with a political objective (Public Order Act 1936 ss1-2).

Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination

Examination that must be passed to become a **certified public accountant** in the USA.

An accountant qualified in another country may qualify by sitting the **international qualification examination**.

uniform rate

Term for basic rate of income tax used between 1894 and 1906.

uniform accounting policies

Use of the same accounting policies by different businesses.

uniform business rate	Another name for unified business rate .
Uniform Laws	Uniform Laws on International Sales Act 1967. This provides some common conventions on international trading.
uniform resource identifier (URI)	In computing, a string of characters that identifies a name or resource on the Internet. An example is the ISBN number used to identify published books.
Uniform Simultaneous Death Act	A law enacted in some states of the USA to counter the law of commorientes . The law was first passed in 1940. The main provision of the will is that commorientes is disapplied when two people die within 120 hours (five days) of each other. Either commorientes or this Act may be disapplied by the will, such as in a Titanic clause .
unilateral agreement	Agreement made by one party who made an offer to anyone. This can establish a valid contract, as was held in <i>Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co [1893]</i> .
unincorporated	Description of a body which is not legally recognised as a separate entity from its owners, such as unlimited company.
unincorporated association	Body formed by individuals where the individuals remain fully liable for the debts of the body. They are subject to corporation tax on any taxable profits. If they make sufficient taxable supplies, they may be liable to register for VAT under Value Added Tax Act 1994 s46.
uninstall	In computing, a facility for removing a piece of software from a computer.
uninstalling	Removing software from a computer.
union consultation	Discussion between an employer and trade union, particularly as required by Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 s188 when 20 or more members are to be made redundant.
Union Customs Code (UCC)	Code introduced from 1 May 2016 determining the nature of Customs Comprehensive Guarantee .
union learning representative	A trade union official whose function is to identify and help meet the learning needs of its members. Such an official has the right to paid leave for his work under Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 s168A.
union recognition	Recognition of a particular trade union for the purposes of collective bargaining by a particular employer. Such recognition is given by the Central Arbitration Committee . The recognition may be compulsory (imposed on employer) or voluntary (agreed with employer).

unilateral One-sided, such as in an agreement where only one party provides a **consideration**.

unilateral contract **Contract** where only one party's acceptance of the **offer** is made by performing the obligation.

A common example is to offer a reward for a lost dog. A person who finds the dog has performed the contract, which comprises acceptance. Therefore the person who offered the reward is contractually bound to pay the reward.

union The state of bringing two or more things together as one entity. The term is widely used to mean a **trade union**.

union flag Flag of the United Kingdom introduced on 1 January 1801 when Great Britain was united with Ireland. It combines three national flags in an asterisk shape of red, white and blue. Wales is not represented as it is regarded as included in the St George's flag of Britain.

"The Union Flag shall be **azure**, the Crosses **saltire** of Saint Andrew and Saint Patrick quarterly per saltire, counter-changed, **argent** and **gules**, the latter **fimbriated** of the **second**, surmounted by the Cross of Saint George of the **third** fimbriated as the saltire." (Order in Council 1801).



The official ratio of the flag is 2:1, though the army uses the ratio of 5:3. The flag is also widely known as the Union Jack. The view that this term only refers to the flag on ships is disputed. The term Union Jack also referred to national flags before 1801, particularly the flag designed in 1606.

The flag appears in the corner of the national flags of many other countries, mostly former colonies and also Hawaii.

There is no law which formally adopts the union flag as the national flag. It was stated in Parliament in 1933, that any British subject may fly the flag on land without needing any permission (including planning permission).

At sea, its use is restricted to military vessels, under Merchant Shipping Act 1995. This dates from a 17th century law when ships flying the flag were exempt from harbour dues. Instead most merchant and private ships may fly the red ensign (and some the blue ensign). This is a blue flag where the union flag appears in a corner.

Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 s91(2) allows "any vessel in the service of Her Majesty" and flying the correct ensign may fire on any ship that fails to bring to after a gun has been fired as a warning signal.

There are flag days when the union flag is flown from public buildings to mark commemorations, such as royal birthdays.

The flag is widely used in applications such as software to denote the UK

or English language. It was widely used in fashion in the 1960s — there are no legal restrictions on its use or even desecration. The flag was adopted as the national symbol of the British National Party.

By convention, the flag may be hung horizontally or vertically. It is traditionally flown at half mast as a gesture of mourning. It is regarded as an insult (though not illegal) to fly the flag upside down.

Union Jack	Popular name for the union flag . The claim that this term only applies when the flag is flown on a ship is disputed.
unionised	Description of an entity where all or most of the workers belong to a trade union.
unique	Description of one of a kind without any other. Therefore something cannot be “very unique”, though it can be “almost unique”.
unique device identifier	“An electronic equipment identifier which is unique to a mobile wireless communications device” (Mobile Telephones (Re-Programming) Act 2002 s1(2). It is an offence to change this identifier or to possess equipment which can do so.
unique identifier	(1) Number that may be allocated to directors, company secretary or certain other individuals in respect of a registered company (Companies Act 2006 s1082). (2) Number engraved on back of a photocard driving licence for security.
unique selling point (USP)	In marketing, quality of goods or services that identify why a customer should favour those of one supplier over another. Examples of USPs include cheaper price, prompter delivery, greater durability, better support services, readier availability, greater ease of use, and similar.
unique tax	A one-off levy imposed in 1404.
unique tax reference (UTR)	Number allocated by HMRC to a taxpayer which should be quoted on all correspondence and tax returns. It typically comprises two sets of five digits.
Unique Ticket Number (UTN)	Number that may be allocated to each ticket by an event organiser. From April 2018, resellers of tickets must state the UTN if one has been issued.
unique users	In statistics, this refers the number of distinct individuals, as determined by observation.
UNISON	Trade union formed in 1993 from an amalgamation of COHSE, NALGO and NUPE. Its members are mostly employed in the public sector.
unissued capital	Capital which a company is authorised to issue but has not done so.

unissued stock	Capital which a company is authorised to issue as stock (in the meaning of equity capital) but has not done so.
unit	(1) A single amount of an item, particularly one of an item offered for sale. (2) Premises or single entity which occupies it. (3) Holding in a unit trust . (4) Measure of extra pension added to state retirement pension under the graduated pension scheme which ran between 1961 and 1975.
unit activity	In management accounting, an activity that is performed every time a unit of production is produced.
unitary authority	Part of the UK where there is one local authority rather than having two authorities at different levels, such as a borough council and a county council covering the same area. Birmingham is the UK's largest unitary authority.
unitary taxation	(1) System of income tax introduced in UK in 1973 which replaced the previous complex system whereby 2/9 (or another fraction) of income was tax-free. (2) US system of tax where multinationals are taxed on worldwide income.
unit holder	Person who holds a unit in something, such as a unit trust. The term is used in Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 s12 to mean someone who holds a commonhold unit .
unit cost	In management accounting, the cost of making a single item.
Unite	Trade union formed on 1 May 2007 from the merger of Amicus and the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), both of which were themselves mergers of trade unions. Unite is the largest trade union in Britain.
unite	Gold coin worth 20s minted between 1604 and 1612, worth 22s between 1612 and 1619, and 20s again between 1625 and 1662.
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Arab country. Its currency is the UAE dirham of 100 fils. The UK has no double taxation treaty.
United Kingdom (UK)	Term adopted on 1 January 1801 for the union of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland (now only Northern Ireland). The term now "means Great Britain and Northern Ireland" (Interpretation Act 1978 Sch 1). This definition was created on 12 April 1927.
United Kingdom Oil Industry Taxation Committee	A trade organisation representing the interests of the UK oil industry.
United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI)	Body corporate established under Higher Education and Research Act 2017 s91(1).

United Kingdom securities	“Any securities issued by or on behalf of Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom or the Government of Northern Ireland and any securities of a body corporate incorporated in any part of the United Kingdom” (Taxes Management Act 1970 s24(4)).
United Nations	An international organisation that acts as a forum for discussion and regulates international relations. Head offices are in Geneva and New York. It was formed in 1944.
United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)	A voluntary initiative under which companies agree to implement sustainability goals as set out by United Nations.
United States Navy Exchange (USNX)	Labour facility for US naval personnel.
United States of America (USA)	Federal republic of 50 states which developed from 1783 when it gained independence from Great Britain. Its currency is the US dollar of 100 cents. The UK has a double taxation convention of 2001 amended by a protocol of 2002.
unit holder	Person who holds units in a unit trust.
unit-linked endowment	A fixed term savings plan with an element of life cover. Your savings go into an underlying fund of investments like shares and the eventual return you get depends on the performance of these investments.
unit-linked insurance	Insurance which is linked to the performance of a unit trust .
unit load	Any load, including groupage, which leaves the approved premises as a single, identifiable unit intended for exportation.
unit price	Price of a single item.
uniting of interests	Term used in some international accounting standards for merger accounting .
unit of account	Defined unit of a medium of exchange . The commonest medium is currency, where the unit of account is the denomination of the currency, such as the pound or dollar.
unit of account	(1) Currency or its equivalent which is used for accounting purposes. (2) The type or size of packing in which the goods are sold, for example packets of 20 cigarettes.
unit of production	(1) Single item produced from a factory or similar. (2) Method of calculating depreciation based on the number of saleable items it is expected to produce during its estimated economic life.

unit rated	<p>A Unit rate is often used in determining the premium for large (more than 20 lives) group insurance schemes. In this basis of costing, the Unit Rate is applied to the total benefits provided under the scheme. The rate is determined with reference to banded membership data and other underwriting adjustments. For group life insurance the rate is usually expressed per £1000 of death benefit and for dependants pensions per £100 of insured pension.</p>
unit trust	<p>A trust set up as a pooled investment fund. The portfolio of investments is unitised in order to allow investors to buy and sell units.</p> <p>The capital gains tax implications are given in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 ss99-103A.</p> <p>Unit trusts were subject to stamp duty before 16 March 1988.</p>
unit trust investment duty (UTID)	<p>Stamp duty that was abolished from 16 March 1988.</p>
unit trust scheme manager	<p>One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) a person who has permission under Part 4 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to manage unit trust schemes authorised under section 243 of that Act, or(b) a firm which has permission under paragraph 4 of Schedule 4 to the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as a result of qualifying for authorisation under paragraph of that Schedule; Treaty firms) to manage unit trust schemes authorised under that section.
Unity Pools	<p>Football pools during the war where the various companies combined for the duration.</p>
univ	<p>Universal or university.</p>
universal agent	<p>Person who has been given authority to act as agent for another person on all matters.</p>
universal credit (UC)	<p><i>Principles</i></p> <p>Name introduced by the government in 2010 as the replacement for six means-tested social security benefits: child tax credit, housing benefit, income support, income-based jobseekers allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, and working tax credit. Claimants who have not yet migrated to UC continue to receive those benefits.</p> <p>UC is being rolled out in stages for particular areas and for people in particular circumstances. Areas are distinguished between full service areas and live service areas.</p> <p>The benefit is created by Welfare Reform Act 2012 s1.</p> <p>The principles behind the scheme have been generally welcomed, though its operations have been criticised.</p> <p>UC means that a person does not have to change benefits as they move in and out of work. It also ends the disincentive for a person working 16 hours a week to work up to 24 hours, which applied under previous benefits.</p>

The main features of UC are:

- it is paid monthly (sometimes twice a month in Scotland) on the same date each month, to copy arrangements for salary payments
- it is paid to those households with little or no income, and without significant savings. The government provides an online calculator to determine benefit
- it must be claimed online. It is not given automatically
- all claimants are interviewed at the local Jobcentre Plus
- the claimant must either be at least 18 years old, or 16 years old and meet particular conditions
- UC comprises a standard allowance, and additions for children, disability or help paying rent
- the first payment should be made after five weeks. A claimant may apply for an advance
- circumstances are reviewed each month
- every extra £1 of net income reduces UC by 63p
- there is a work allowance which is disregarded for determining UC
- if earnings increase so no UC is payable and then decrease, a fresh claim for UC must be made.

A claim for UC may be made by calling 0800 328 5644. Welsh speakers may call 0800 012 1888.

Operation

Criticisms of its practice include:

- long delays in its roll-out. Migration from existing benefits was supposed to be completed by October 2017, but only 10% had been migrated by that date
- 20% of claimants are paid late, sometimes very late
- it is proving expensive to administer, at £699 per claim — four times the original figure
- it requires additional record-keeping for the self-employed.

Measures were introduced from the November 2017 to deal with some of these concerns.

universal dummy	The code QQ999999 that must be used by a paying agent when reporting savings income that does not have its own identification reference number for the security involved. Use of this number will lead to the paying agent being audited by HMRC.
Universal Jobmatch	Website that connects jobseekers with job vacancies. It was renamed Find a Job from 14 May 2018.
universal postal service	Arrangements that ensure that mail is delivered to every address in the UK. OFCOM has the duty to ensure this happens (Postal Services Act 2011 from s29).
universal postal service order	Order that may be issued by OFCOM to ensure a universal postal service (Postal Services Act 2011 s30).

universal service order	Order which may be imposed by the Secretary of State under Communications Act 2003 s65 regarding obligations on provider of radio, telephone and similar services. This has been amended by Digital Economy Act 2017.
universal service provider (USP)	For postal services, Royal Mail. Its status as USP allows its services to be exempt from VAT, though this was restricted from 31 January 2011.
university	Payments of research and development made by a company to such a body may be tax deductible under Corporation Tax Act 2009 s88.
University Air Squadron	One of the classes of reservists (PAYE regulations SI 2003 No 2682 reg 122(2)).
UNIX	Computer operating system, popular for running servers on the Internet.
unjust enrichment	<p>Concept in VAT under which a trader cannot claim back VAT if it would “unjustly” enrich the trader, such as when claiming back output tax on goods which are retrospectively held to be subject to a lower rate of VAT, when that tax cannot be passed on to customers.</p> <p>This provision was tested by Marks and Spencer in the Great Teacakes Case, more properly known as <i>Marks and Spencer plc v Customs and Excise [2000] and subsequent years</i>.</p> <p>There is no converse concept of unjust impoverishment.</p>
unjustifiably disciplined	Any action taken by a trade union against a member for not taking part in industrial action and similar as described under Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 s65. The member has the right not to be so disciplined under <i>ibid</i> s64.
unjustified enrichment	Term used in Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014 from s109. It has the same meaning as unjust enrichment , though it is applied to direct taxes.
unlawful	Against the law. The term is sometimes distinguished from illegal in that the former means that the action attracts no penalty.
unlawful deduction from wages	<p>Deduction from wages for a reason which is not permitted.</p> <p>Only these items may be legally deducted from wages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• income tax and national insurance;• contributions to an occupational pension scheme of which the employee is a member;• corrections of an overpayment on a previous payslip, subject to conditions;• attachments of earnings which been authorised by a court or other authority;• amounts which are authorised by the contract of employment;• amounts which the employee authorised <i>before</i> the deduction was made; and• retail deductions for shortfalls of stock or cash in the retail trade.

It should be remembered that any other deduction is unlawful even if the employee owes the money. An employee may take a claim to an employment tribunal for an unlawful deduction.

In particular, an employer has no right of set-off against wages such as for such items as damage caused to company property or amounts outstanding for purchases from the company.

unlawful dismissal Dismissal of an employee in an improper manner, such as not by giving notice or warnings.

unlawful distribution Dividend or similar **distribution** made by a company, other than as permitted under company law. The most common reason is that the company does not have sufficient profits.

Such a dividend must be repaid to the company. If a member knew or should reasonably have known that it was unlawful when made, the member must repay it immediately (Companies Act 2006 s847).

unleaded petrol Petrol "means petrol that contains less than 0.013 grams of lead per litre of petrol". (Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 s13A).

The limit was 0.020 grams before 1 April 1990.

unlicensed area In relation to taxation of oil industry, this term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s356JL(8).

unlicensed family entertainment centre (UFEC)

Amusement arcade that includes gambling machines but does not need a licence from the Gambling Commission. Instead it needs a permit from the local authority.

unlicensed premises For the purposes of betting and gaming duties, this term is defined in Finance Act 1997 Sch 1 para 2(2).

unlimited Not limited, particularly as for a company.

unlimited company A **company** where the liability of its **members** is not limited (Companies Act 2006 s3(4)).

unliquidated claim Claim for an amount which has yet to be determined or agreed.

unlisted company Limited liability company whose shares are not **listed** on any stock exchange.

unlisted securities Shares and other securities which are not listed on a stock exchange.

Unlisted Securities Market (USM)

A junior stock market run by the London Stock Exchange from 1980 to 1996 for companies too small for a full listing. It was replaced by the **Alternative Investment Market (AIM)** set up in 1995. The USM allowed a company to float as little as 10% of its equity.

UNLOCODE	Identification scheme for locating goods to be exported or imported. It is used for customs duty purposes.
unmarked gas oil	Heavy oil of which not more than 50% by volume distils at a temperature not exceeding 240 degrees C and of which more than 50% by volume distils at a temperature not exceeding 340 degrees C. Unmarked gas oil does not contain the prescribed markers quinizarin and Solvent Red 24.
unmarked kerosene	A heavy oil of which more than 50% by volume distils at a temperature not exceeding 240 degrees C, but which does not contain the prescribed marker coumarin. Unmarked kerosene is usually called AVTUR or aviation turbine fuel, as it is used in aircraft engines.
unmarried couple	For pension credit, "means a man and a woman who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife other than in prescribed circumstances" (State Pension Credit Act 2002 s17(1)).
unmeasured work	One of the four bases for determining whether the national minimum wage (NMW) regulations have been followed. It applies only to those workers for whom none of the other bases is appropriate. This happens when a person is engaged to complete a project regardless of how long it takes. Compliance with NMW regulations requires either a record of hours actually worked to be kept and the NMW paid for those hours, or for a daily average agreement . A daily average agreement states the average number of hours the worker is expected to work each day. This must be agreed in advance with the worker in accordance with government guidelines.
UNMOVIC	United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission.
unnecessary material	Term used in company law in relation to items submitted to Companies House in excess of that required and which cannot "readily be separated from the rest of the document". The presence of such material may mean that the document is regarded as not having been submitted. (Companies Act 2006 s1074).
UNO	United Nations Organization.
uno flatu	Latin: with one breath.
unpaid amount	In relation to PAYE, "means any amount of tax or interest which — (a) an employer is liable to pay under regulation 75A(10), 76(2), 77(6), 78(8) or 79(2)(b); (b) an employee is liable to pay under regulation 72(7) or regulation 81(6)." (PAYE regulations SI 2003 No 2682 reg 84(1)).
unpaid contributions	National insurance contributions that have not been paid when they should have been. The offences are dealt with in Social Security Administration Act

1992 from s119.

unpaid expense	Bad debt for which a trade had claimed tax relief when it ceased trading (Income Tax Act 2007 s99(1)). Should the debt subsequently be paid it is treated as a qualifying payment and becomes taxable.
unpaid invoices	Invoices which the recipient has yet to pay.
unpaid leave	Absence from work authorised by the employer or the law but for which the employee is not paid. There are special provisions if an employee is entitled to a PAYE refund during such a period in PAYE regulations SI 2003 No 2682 reg 63.
unpaid relevant contributions	In relation to a pension fund, these may qualify for tax relief under Income Tax (Trading And Other Income) Act 2005s753A.
unpaid remuneration	Remuneration that has not been paid to the director or employee within nine months of the end of the accounting period (Income Tax (Trading And Other Income) Act 2005 s36 and Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1288). Tax relief is not allowed against the employer's taxable profits. If the amount has already been claimed, it must be added back in the same or a later taxable period. For an investment company, the same provision is given as Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1250.
unpaid rent condition	A condition that must be met for a landlord to end a shorthold tenancy for abandoned premises . The rent must have been unpaid for at least <ul style="list-style-type: none">• if due weekly or fortnightly: eight consecutive weeks• if due monthly: two consecutive months• if due quarterly: one quarter more then three months in arrears• if due annually: more than three months in arrears. (Housing and Planning Act 2016 s58(1)).
unpaid seller	A seller of goods who has provided the goods as required under the contract and has either not been paid the whole price, or where payment was made by a bill of exchange which has not been honoured (Sale of Goods Act 1979 s38(1)). Under s39 of the Act, an unpaid seller has the right of seller's lien on any goods still in the seller's possession, a limited right of re-sale, and the right to stop goods in transit. These are in addition to his right to sue for payment.
unpaid work requirement	Element of a criminal sentence that an offender must perform unpaid work (Criminal Justice Act 2003 s199).
unpressured	Ethic of allowing counselling to proceed at its own natural pace.

unprofitable	Description of an activity or business which cannot be run at a reasonable profit.
unprompted	In relation to a disclosure of a tax error in Scotland, the term means “made at a time when the person making it has no reason to believe that Revenue Scotland has discovered or is about to discover the inaccuracy, the supply of false information or withholding of information, or the under-assessment”. (Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014 s192(5)).
unprotected trust deed	In Scotland, a trust deed which is not registered and therefore does not stop a creditor starting sequestration proceedings.
unqualified report	Report by auditor or examiner which discloses no concerns.
unquoted company	Company whose shares are not listed on a stock exchange. In the context of employee-controlled companies means “a company none of whose shares is included in the official UK list” (Income Tax Act 2007 s397(6)).
unquoted shares	Shares which are not listed on a stock exchange. The capital gains tax position is given in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s273.
unquoted status requirement	Requirement that entitlement to tax relief under the Enterprise Investment Scheme depends on the company not being listed on a stock exchange (Income Tax Act 2007 s143 and s184). Similar provision for VCT relief (Income Tax Act 2007 s295). Similar provision for share loss relief (Corporation Tax Act 2010 s85).
unrealisable gains	Apparent increase in the value of an asset which cannot be turned into cash.
unrealised	Gains and losses representing changes in values of assets and liabilities that are not realised through sale or use.
unrealised capital gain	Investment or asset which has grown in value but has not been turned into cash.
unrealised profit	Profit that has been earned but not turned into cash, such as an unpaid debt. There are some legal restrictions on the use of unrealised profits (Companies Act 2006 s846 and 849). If the directors do not know whether a profit is realised or unrealised, they may regard it as realised (ibid s850(2)).
unredeemed pledge	Pledge which a borrower has made but has not redeemed. An example is when a personal item is pledged or pawned, and the person cannot raise the cash to redeem the pledge to get it back.
unreduced amount	Term used in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s230 and Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s290 in relation to the additional calculation rule for leases.

unregistered	Not on a central register. This commonly refers to the register of companies or the VAT register.
unregistered company	Body corporate that has a principal place of business in the UK but is not registered in the UK, with some exceptions. Company law provisions are given in Companies Act 2006 from s1043.
unregistered friendly society	Such a body is exempt from tax under Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s459 provided its income does not exceed £160 a year and it has claimed exemption.
unrelated	In relation to completing form P11D for PAYE purposes, this term is defined for payments and benefits in PAYE regulations SI 2003 No 2682 reg 95(3).
unrelated expenses	Term sometimes used to mean expenses incurred by a business for a non-business purpose.
unrelieved	In relation to claims for research and development tax credits by a small and medium-sized entity making a loss, this term has a specific meaning given in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1056.
unrelieved general annuity business	Term used in Finance Act 1991 Sch 7 para 17 in relation to taxation of annuity business.
unrelieved loss	Loss where no tax relief has been obtained for the current tax year and which therefore may be carried forward to future years (Income Tax Act 2007 83(2)).
unrelieved old expenditure	Term used in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 in relation to waste disposal.
unremittable amounts	Corporation tax provisions are given in Corporation Tax Act 2009 from s172 and Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 from s187. There are also provisions in Corporation Tax Act 2009 from s1274.
unremitted foreign securities income	Foreign securities income as defined by Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s41A that has not been remitted to the UK. The capital gains tax implications are given in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s119B.
unremitted Part 7A income	Term used in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s119C(3).
unrestricted fund	Fund which a charity may use for any purpose, unlike designated funds or restricted funds .
unrestricted income	Income which a charity or other non-commercial body may use for any purpose. There is no restriction imposed by the donor.
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.
unsatisfactory goods	Goods sold to a consumer that do not meet the statutory requirement of being satisfactory .
UNSCOM	United Nations Special Commission.
unsecured creditor	Person to whom money is owed under an unsecured loan.
unsecured creditors	Those who have no claim against particular assets when a company is wound up, but must take their turn for any share of what remains.
unsecured debt	Debt which is not pre-preferential, preferential or secured. Most debt comes into this category.
unsecured loan	Loan which is not secured on any asset. If the loan is not paid, the lender cannot seize any of the debtor's property.
unsecured pension	Payment of income withdrawals direct from a money purchase arrangement, or income paid from a short-term annuity contract purchased from such an arrangement, to the member of the arrangement (who is aged under 75) and that meet the conditions laid down in paragraph 6 and 8 to 10 of Schedule 28 to the Finance Act 2004.
unsecured pension fund	<p>Funds, whether sums or assets, held under a money purchase arrangement that have been designated to provide a scheme member (who is aged under 75) with an unsecured pension, as identified in Finance Act 2004 Sch 28 para 8.</p> <p>Once sums or assets have been designated as part of an unsecured pension fund any capital growth or income generated from such sums or assets are equally treated as being part of the unsecured pension fund.</p> <p>Similarly where assets are purchased at a later date from such funds, or sums generated by the sale of assets held in such funds, those replacement assets or sums also fall as part of the unsecured pension fund (as do any future growth or income generated by those assets or sums).</p>
unsecured pension fund lump sum death benefit	A lump sum benefit paid from a money purchase arrangement following the death of the scheme member before the age of 75 from any unsecured pension fund the member held in that arrangement at the point of death, and as defined in paragraph 17, Schedule 29 to the Finance Act 2004.
unsecured pension year	Term used up to 5 April 2012 for what is now called the drawdown pension year .
unsigned accounts	<p>There is no requirement for business accounts submitted with a tax return to be signed.</p> <p>HMRC lost a case where they imposed a penalty for late submission because the accounts were returned for signature (<i>Codu Computer Ltd [2011]</i>)</p>

TC 1055).

unsocial hours	Hours when most people prefer not to work. This typically includes nights, weekends and public holidays. Working unsocial hours often attracts a premium.
unsolicited	“Means, in relation to goods sent to any person, that they are sent without any prior request made by him or on his behalf” (Unsolicited Goods and Services Act 1971 s6(1)).
unsolicited participants	In psychology and similar disciplines, people who are unaware that they are taking part in an experiment.
unsubsidised	Description of a price which represents the real cost of producing the goods and services plus the supplier's profit. No payment or subsidy has come from the government or other source.
unsuccessful call attempt	“A communication where a telephone call has been successfully connected but not answered or there has been a network management intervention” (Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act 2014 s2(1)).
Untelraab	Case that helped establish legal precedent that the residence of the company is where its decisions were made. The full name is <i>Untelraab Ltd v McGregor</i> . SpC 55 [1995].
untraceable member	A member of a registered pension scheme who cannot be traced prior to their 75th birthday.
untrue declaration	False declaration for Customs purposes. It is an offence for which penalties are prescribed by Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 s167.
unused allowance	Allowance which has not been wholly utilised. The term commonly applies to tax allowances which have not been used in one tax year but could be utilised in another year.
unused amount	Term used in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s230 and Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s290 in relation to the additional calculation rule for leases.
unused exemption	Amount of relocation expenses available for offset of bridging loan expenses, as explained in Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s288.
unused non-pension business loss	Term defined in Finance Act 2007 Sch 7 para 83(1) in relation to carrying forward unused non-pension business losses.
unused relief	Relief against income tax which a person has not wholly utilised, particularly the married couple's allowance for older taxpayers. Income Tax Act 2007 s51 provides limited scope to transfer unused relief.

unwound	Description of a transaction that is reversed. An example is a distribution based on an overvalued goodwill. Under Corporation Tax Act 2010 s1020, such a distribution may be unwound.
unwritten law	Law that is not written as an Act of Parliament or similar. Unwritten law includes custom, common law and equity.
UO	Unattached officer.
UOM	Union of Myanmar.
UP	In relation to occupational pension schemes, any unauthorised payments as defined (Finance Act 2004 s185C).
UPOV Convention	International convention on plant variety rights . Customs may seize goods that infringe these rights.
upfront fees	One of the hallmarks of a tax planning scheme of which taxpayers are advised to be wary.
Uppal, Paul	English Conservative politician and public official (1967-). He was an MP from 2010 to 2015. In 2017, he was appointed the first Small Business Commissioner.
upper accruals point (UAP)	Limit in class 1 national insurance , above which contributions cease to count towards any entitlement. The point is fixed at £770 a week, with no intention of changing it so that the earnings band between the earnings threshold and UAP will gradually reduce over the years. UAP was introduced in 2009 and abolished in 2016.
upper case	In typesetting, capital letters.
upper earnings limit (UEL)	The maximum earnings on which National Insurance contributions are payable by employees at the full rate. Above UEL, employees pay the additional rate.
Upper House	House of Lords.
upper limit (UL)	Term is particularly used for the limit at which the full rate of corporation tax is payable. Details are given in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s24. This figure was introduced in 1973 at £40,000, and has been £1.5 million since 1994. It is abolished from 1 April 2015.
Upper Secondary Threshold (UST)	The limit of earnings up to which employer's national insurance is not payable for an employee who is under 21. The UST was introduced from 6 April 2015.
upper tax tribunal for Scotland	Tribunal for hearing appeals on tax cases in Scotland (Revenue Scotland and

Tax Powers Act 2014 s21(4)).

Upper Tribunal

Higher of the two levels of **tribunals** introduced from 2009 (Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 s3).

The Upper Tribunal hears appeals from the **first-tier tribunal**, and will also first hears more complex cases.

UPS

Uninterruptable power supply.

upset price

Reserved price of goods at an auction. If no-one bids a higher price, the goods are sold to the person who offered the upset price.

upsilon

Greek letter denoted as u, or Y as the capital. It is also the Greek number for 400.

upskirting

Offence of taking a photograph under a person's clothing without their consent. It was made a specific offence in 2018.

upstream loan

Loan from a subsidiary to a parent company.

If such a loan is made from a **controlled foreign company** to a UK parent, it falls outside the scope of the **finance company partial exemption**.

UR

(1) Repayment User, namely a person who has been individually authorised and approved to reclaim the excise duty on duty-paid oil put to eligible use.
(2) Term used in the formula for calculating the ring fence amount for the oil industry. The formula is given in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s279D.

URA

Usual residential address.

uranium

Radio-active metal element.

A licence is needed from the **Office for Civil Nuclear Security** to import it. Customs clearance requires this licence.

urban

Pertaining to a town or city.

urban regeneration company

Body set up by the government to assist in urban regeneration. Contributions to such companies are tax deductible either under Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s79B or Corporation Tax Act 2009 s82 or Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s86.

The term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s86 and Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s86.

URC

United Reformed Church.

ure

In Orkney and Shetland Isles, an area of land whose feu duty is one eighth of a mark.

urgency condition

Where a court is satisfied that "a decision is needed, or is likely to be needed, in relation to property or financial affairs of the **missing person** before the day on which that [absence] condition would be met" (Guardianship (Missing

Persons) Act 2017 s3(3)(b)).

This allows a **guardian order** to be appointed to deal with the financial or administrative affairs of a missing person after less than 90 days of absence.

Urgent Issues Tax Force

Body which prepares accounting abstracts to deal with narrow accounting issues, usually particularly topical ones. It was abolished in 2014.

URI

(1) **Uniform resource identifier.**

(2) Upper respiratory infection.

URL

In computing, Unique Resource Locator.

This specifies where a computer resource is located and how to access it. A common example is a website domain name. The path to the domain is indicated by steps, each marked by the forward slash / sign.

urn

An urn for cremation is exempt from VAT if provided as part of a funeral service. Further details are given in VAT notice 701/32.

UROS

Figure used in calculation of oil profits, used in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s356N(5).

URTI

Upper respiratory tract infection. Common abbreviation for sick notes (HMRC leaflet E14).

Uruguayan peso

Currency of Uruguay.

US

(1) United States (of America). This abbreviation is often used as an adjective, as in "US reports". It is also used to indicate US law reports.

(2) Under-secretary

(3) United services.

US\$

Abbreviation: US dollar. This is usually denoted by the sign \$ alone, unless it needs to be made clear that the currency is not another dollar or peso.

us

Ut supra, Latin: as above.

u/s

Abbreviation: unserviceable.

USA

United States of America.

USAF

United States Air Force.

usage

Rate or amount by which a commodity is used.

usage method

Method of calculating **depreciation**. It calculates the total amount of use an asset is likely to get during its estimated useful life, and calculates the depreciation as the proportion of that usage for the period.

usage segmentation	Dividing users of a product or service according to their usage of that product or service. The classification is usually a simple one, such as heavy, medium and light.
USAID	United States Agency for International Development.
USB	Universal serial bus. In computing this a term for a fast and versatile means of connecting computers to peripheral equipment.
USB datastick	<p>Small device, usually about 7 cm long and 1 cm wide, with the standard rectangular USB connector for computers.</p> <p>Such datasticks can now hold many gigabytes of data. HMRC generally accepts data submitted on a USB datastick. It should be realised that HMRC then destroys the datastick rather than return it.</p>
USD	ISO code for US dollar.
USDAW	Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers. A trade union.
use	Put to a purpose.
use class order	In planning law, a category of development for which planning permission may be given. Once permission for that category is given any subsequent occupier of those premises may use those premises for any activity within the use class order without needing to obtain any further permission. For example, shops are A1 use. So a shop selling sweets may become a clothes shop without needing any further permission.
used	In retail, second-hand.
used solely as a dwelling	Term used for capital gains tax with regard to a taxpayer's home, or part of a home. This removes that part from the scope of business premises useful economic life .
used-up amount	Term used in relation to ring-fence allowances in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s330A(3).
useful economic life	<p>In accounting, period from which an organisation expects to derive economic benefit from an asset. This is used as the basis for depreciation.</p> <p>For goodwill, FRS 10 allows amortization over the same period as the underlying tangible assets.</p>
useful economic life test	For finance leases , a test set out in Capital Allowances Act 2001 s70P.
useful life	In accounting for depreciation, "the period over which an asset is expected to be available for use by an entity or the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the asset by the entity" (FRS 102 glossary).

use it or lose it	<p>Aphorism for budget lapsing.</p> <p>It refers to the practice of removing any unused budget allocation. It has the disadvantage of encouraging unnecessary spending.</p>
use of information	<p>Rules that govern what HMRC may do with information it has received from and about taxpayers. These rules are set out in Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 s17.</p>
use of the money raised requirement	<p>Condition which must be satisfied in terms of the purposes of funds raised by a share issue for investors in that issue to obtain tax relief, such as for EIS relief under Income Tax Act 2007 s175, or for VCT relief under s293.</p> <p>The requirement is broadly that at least 80% of the funds must be used for the business.</p>
user	<p>Someone who uses something.</p> <p>In marketing, this refers to the ultimate customer of the product as against the immediate customer.</p> <p>In law and personnel, the term often means a user of illicit drugs.</p> <p>Colloquially the term means someone who cultivates friendships primarily for what can be got out of them.</p>
user friendly	<p>Description of a computer program which can easily be used with little instruction.</p>
User ID	<p>An automatically-generated identity which is used together with a password to log onto the Government Gateway or HM Customs and Excise web sites.</p>
user name	<p>Customer's name or a nickname in a form recognised by a computer, such as <i>johnhiggins</i>, <i>johnsmith47</i> or <i>madman</i>. A customer may not use a name already in use. The user name is usually entered with a password.</p>
user's guide	<p>Book or other instructions supplied with a product, explaining how to use it.</p>
US GAAP	<p>In relation to corporation tax on banks, "means United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles" (Corporation Tax Act 2010 s269BD(4)).</p>
Usher	<p>Leading case on the remoteness test for allowability of expenditure. The full name is <i>Usher's Wiltshire Brewery Ltd v Bruce</i> [1914] 6TC399. The matter is discussed in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM37200.</p>
USIA	<p>United States Information Agency, now replaced by IIP.</p>
USM	<p>Unlisted Securities Market.</p>
USNX	<p>United States Navy Exchange, an organisation which operates shops and other establishments supplying goods and services to United States Navy personnel around the world. See also: Army and Air Force Exchange Service.</p>

USO	Universal service operator, such as Royal Mail.
USP	<p>(1) Universal service provider. In relation to postal services, the relevant law is Postal Services Act 2011 from s35.</p> <p>(2) In marketing, unique selling point.</p>
usque ad nauseam	Latin: to the point of disgust.
Usquebaugh	Irish: whiskey.
USS	United States Ship [or Steamer].
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, now disbanded.
UST	Upper secondary threshold.
usual place of residence	<p>For VAT place of supply rules, "in relation to a body corporate, means the place where it is legally constituted" (Value Added Tax Act 1994 s9(6)).</p> <p>For VAT registration, the same definition is used in <i>ibid</i> Sch 1 para 10(4)(b)).</p>
usual residential address (URA)	<p>For company law, where a director or other office normally lives.</p> <p>This information must be provided to Companies House. It can be provided to certain bodies such as the police, but does not appear on publicly available documents. All officers must provide an address to which third parties can communicate with them. This may be the company's registered office, which must always be stated even if it is a director's URA.</p>
usucaption	Scots law: acquisition of property by long possession.
usufruct	Scots law: right to profit from another's property on condition that it remains uninjured.
usury	<p>Extortionate interest.</p> <p>In Old Testament and historically, the term included charging of any interest on a loan to relieve poverty. This was considered improper while the charging of interest for a business was acceptable.</p> <p>"When money is lent on a contract to receive not only the principal sum again, but also an increase by way of compensation for the use, the increase is called <i>interest</i> by those who <i>think</i> it lawful, and <i>usury</i> by those who do not." (<i>William Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England</i>).</p>
Usury Act	Law of 1660 that reduced the interest rate from 8% to 6%. It replaced an Act of 1651 which could not stand as there was no king and therefore no Royal Assent.
usus loquendi	Latin: current usage of speech.

usw	Und so weiter. German: and so forth.
UT	(1) Universal time. (2) Utah, US state.
UTC	Universal Time Co-ordinated. This is used in telecommunications.
ut dictum	Latin: as said.
uterine	Born of the same mother but not of the same father.
UTCCRs	Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999.
UTI	Urinary tract infection. Common abbreviation for sick notes (HMRC leaflet E14).
UTID	Unit trust investment duty
utilities	Basic services provided to a household, such as gas, electricity, water and telephone. Also, the companies that provide such services.
utilisation	Process of making use of something.
utility function	In economics, a mathematical function that relates goods and services to their utility to individuals.
utility program	In computing, software that performs a basic task, such as moving data from one storage device to another.
Utility scheme	Government scheme designed to preserve scarce resources during the second world war. The scheme ran from 1941 to 1952. It applied to clothing, furniture, radios and many other household items. These were manufactured to a plain standard design to achieve economy of production and to avoid wastage in unnecessary features. Utility goods were exempt from purchase tax .
ut infra	Latin: as below.
uti possidetis	Latin: as you possess. The principle that property remains with the possessor.
utmost good faith	The principle of insurance which requires a proposer to give all relevant information to the insurer. It is also known by the Latin name uberrime fidei .
UTN	Unique ticket number.
UTR	Unique tax reference.

ut res magis valeat quam pereat

Latin: it is better for a thing to have effect than to be made void.
This principle was set out in *Roe v Tranmarr* [1757].

UTR reminder

Request to HMRC by a tax agent for the **UTR** of a client. HMRC advises that this should normally be sought from the client. If, exceptionally, that is not possible, HMRC will confirm the UTR to an authorised agent, but not by telephone or fax.

ut supra

Latin: as above.

utter

In forgery, attempt to pass off something false as genuine.

utter barrister

A barrister who is not a **Queen's Counsel**.

UU

Ulster Unionist.

UUP

Ulster Unionist Party.

UUS

Company's unappropriated surplus from 2003. The abbreviation is used in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s444AK in relation to the tax implications of mutual life assurance business.

UUT

Unauthorised unit trust.

UVF

Ulster Volunteer Force.

UWIST

University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology.

UWO

Unexplained wealth order.

uxor

Latin: wife.

UYU

ISO code for Uruguayan peso.

UZ

Abbreviation: Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan

Eastern country. Its currency is the som of 100 tiyms. The UK has a double taxation convention of 1993, amended by a protocol of 2018.

UZS

ISO code for Uzbekistan som.

V

V

National insurance

National insurance contribution letter indicating that the employee is a mariner aged under 21 who is in contracted out employment. The letter is only used for the 2015/16 tax year.

Other meanings

(1) Suffix once used for a **tax code**. This indicates that the taxpayer is entitled to the married age allowance for someone born before 6 April 1935.

(2) Roman numeral for 5.

(3) Abbreviation for volts, unit of electromotive force.

(4) **CFI code** for a voting share.

v	Versus, against. Used in names of court cases such as <i>Pepper v Hart</i> to separate the names of the parties.
V5C	Registration certificate for motor vehicles. It is a multi-coloured two-page document issued by DVLA. The document is not proof of ownership but shows who is responsible for registering and taxing the vehicle. Section 10 is a green section of the form. It is completed and passed to the new owner who keeps it and may use it to tax the vehicle.
V11	Reminder issued by DVLA to registered keeper of vehicle that its vehicle tax needs renewing, or that the keeper needs to file a statutory off road notification (SORN).
V-6, V-8, V-12	Engine with 6, 8 or 12 cylinders arranged in a V shape.
VA	(1) In relation to unauthorised borrowing by an occupational pension scheme, the value of an arrangement. This abbreviation is used in Finance Act 2004 s182(2). (2) Vice-Admiral. (3) Royal Order of Victoria and Albert (4) Virginia, US state.
Va	Virginia, US state.
vac	Abbreviation for vacant, vacation or vacuum cleaner.
vacancy	In human resources, an unfilled position in an organisation.
vacant possession	Description of a building where there are no sitting tenants. Such a building has a higher value than one where there are tenants.
vacation	(1) Process by which a tax assessment is reduced to zero. (2) Holiday.
vacations	In law, period between sittings of the court.
vacation bank	An employee's allotment of annual leave.
vaccine damage payment	Tax-free lump sum payable under Vaccine Damage Payments Act 1979 for damage caused from vaccination under a government programme.

vaccine research relief (VRR)	<p>Tax relief that was provided between 22 April 2003 and 31 March 2017 for research into vaccines. The tax provisions were Corporation Tax Act 2009 from s1039.</p> <p>Its scope was reduced in 2011. It is abolished completely from 1 April 2017 under Finance Act 2016 s47.</p> <p>Fewer than ten claims were made. It is replaced by direct funding such as through the Ross Fund.</p>
VAD	Voluntary Aid Detachment. Organisation of nurses, particularly during a war.
VAEC	Prefix for HMRC's manual on VAT assessments and error correction.
vae victis	Latin: woe to the conquered.
vagabond	Person who wanders without a settled address.
vagaries	Unpredictable changes.
vagrant	Criminal offence of being an "idle and disorderly person", a "rogue and vagabond" or an "incorrigible rogue", as defined in Vagrancy Act 1824.
vague	<p>Insufficiently detailed in description.</p> <p>A vague clause can invalidate a contract or a legacy. Whether a clause is too vague is ultimately for the courts to determine.</p>
valet	Male servant who attends to a gentleman's clothes and appearance.
valetudinarian	Relating to ill health.
Vallambrosa	Early case on whether expenditure is capital or revenue. The full name is <i>Vallambrosa Rubber Company Ltd v Farmer [1910] 5TC529</i> . The matter is discussed in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM35305. This related to the expenditure on the first five years of looking after rubber trees before they are able to produce rubber.
Valor Ecclesiasticus	<p>Latin: church valuation.</p> <p>Survey made by Henry VIII in 1535 on all churches in England, Wales and parts of Ireland regarding their value. This was used to tax them. One consequence of this was the chancel repair obligation that still exists today.</p>
valorise	Establish or fix the price of, particularly by some form of decree.
valour	<p>An award for valour may come with an annual payment. Such payment is exempt from income tax under Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s638.</p> <p>The disposal of such a decoration by the person to whom it was awarded is not taxable as a capital gain (Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s268). The sale by a subsequent owner is not covered by this exemption and so may be taxable.</p>

valuable consideration	<p>In contract law, a consideration supporting a contract.</p> <p>The general rule is that it must be valuable (ie be expressed as an amount of money or worth money) but need not be adequate. A contract for a nominal amount is valid.</p> <p>Under Law of Property Act 1925 s205(1), valuable consideration includes marriage but not nominal amounts.</p>
valuation	<p>Process of ascribing a monetary value to an item.</p> <p>For property, this may be carried out by a professional surveyor to establish how much the property is worth and whether it is suitable to lend a mortgage on. There are three types of valuation that can be done: a basic valuation, homebuyers report or full structural survey.</p>
valuation assumptions	<p><i>Pensions</i></p> <p>In pensions and other areas, assumptions about a person.</p> <p>For pensions, there are assumptions if the person has not reached such age (if any) as must have been reached to avoid any reduction in the benefits on account of age, that the person reached that age on the date, and that the person's right to receive the benefits had not been occasioned by physical or mental impairment.</p> <p><i>Council tax</i></p> <p>For council tax, the assumptions are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the property has vacancy possession,• a house was sold freehold, and a flat with a 99-year lease,• the property is free of any rent charge (or Scottish equivalent),• the property is of the same size and layout as when valued,• the dwelling is in reasonable repair,• fixtures for disabled people are excluded from valuation,• the premises is restricted to private residence,• the premises have no development value.
valuation bands	<p>For council tax, bands into which all properties are placed according to their value at a fixed date. The bands are identified as A to H, plus I in Wales. Band D is regarded as the average.</p>
valuation declaration	<p>For Customs purpose, a statement that an importer may be required to make in relation to goods above a certain value.</p>
valuation expenses	<p>The extent to which such expenses are tax-deductible is discussed in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM42540.</p> <p>Such expenses are generally tax-deductible if made for stock-taking, producing annual accounts or insurance claims. They are generally not deductible for company reconstructions or probate.</p>
valuation list	<p>List kept by local authorities of properties in their area with valuations for council tax purposes (Local Government Finance Act 1992 s23).</p>

valuation of benefits	In relation to employment, this is determined according to Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s415.
Valuation Office	Part of HM Revenue and Customs that values property. Its authority derives from Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 s10.
valuation tribunal	In relation to non-domestic rates, "means — (a) in relation to England, the Valuation Tribunal for England, (b) in relation to Wales, a valuation tribunal established under paragraph 1 of Schedule 11" (Local Government Finance Act 1988 s55(8) as inserted by Enterprise Act 2016 s32).
value	<p>The worth ascribed to an asset, person or organisation. A value must always be made on the basis of certain assumptions and circumstances.</p> <p>In relation to non-resident insurance companies, the term "means the amount that, at the time at which the value falls to be determined, the non-resident insurance company would obtain from an independent person for the transfer of all the company's rights in respect of the asset" (Non-Resident Insurance Companies Regulations SI 2003 No 2715 reg 3(3)).</p>
value added	Additional value which is acquired to an asset or service when it passes from one person to another.
value added tax (VAT)	<p>Tax on the supply of goods and services.</p> <p>It is imposed by Value Added Tax Act 1994 s1(1):</p> <p>"(a) on the supply of goods or services in the United Kingdom (including anything treated as such a supply), (b) on the acquisition in the United Kingdom from other member States of any goods, and (c) on the importation of goods from places outside the member States".</p> <p>It was introduced in the UK on 1 April 1973 as a replacement for purchase tax and selective employment tax.</p> <p>The tax may only be charged by registered traders. Traders with turnover above the registration threshold <i>must</i> register; other traders may voluntarily do so.</p> <p>VAT is charged at the standard rate (currently 20%) unless the supply is specifically zero-rated, reduced-rated or exempt.</p>
value added statement	Simple financial statement which explains how a business has acquired its wealth. It is additional to all other financial statements.
value chain	In management accounting, a description of the series of activities that bring a unit of production of goods or services from its initial stages to delivery to the customer.
value declaration	Statement that may be required in relation to customs duty on imports of a large value.

valued policy	Insurance policy that states the value of the property as agreed between the parties.
value in use	<p><i>Current accounting standard</i> “The present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit” (FRS 102 glossary).</p> <p><i>Previous accounting standard</i> “The present value of the future cash flows obtainable as a result of an asset’s continued use, including those resulting from the ultimate disposal of the asset” (FRS 7 para 2).</p> <p><i>Current accounting standard in relation to assets held for their service potential</i> “When the future economic benefits of an asset are not primarily dependent on the asset’s ability to generate net cash inflows, value in use (in respect of assets held for their service potential) is the present value to the entity of the asset’s remaining service potential if it continues to be used, plus the net amount that the entity will receive from its disposal at the end of its useful life” (FRS 102 glossary).</p>
value judgment	Determination of the rightness or wrongness of someone or something. A value judgment usually involves comparison with a set of values based on a value system .
value market	<p>That part of the retail sector which sells the more expensive and luxurious items.</p> <p>The value market is vulnerable to adverse market conditions as customers economise on luxuries first. Conversely, the value market is the first to recover when economic conditions improve.</p>
value of supply of goods or services	Amount on which VAT must be charged (Value Added Tax Act 1994 s19).
value proposition	Collection of tangible and intangible benefits claimed for a product.
value-protected annuity	<p>An option which became available from 6 April 2006 for those with a private pension.</p> <p>This is a normal annuity but with the additional provision that if the member dies before the age of 75 (or at any lower age chosen by the member), a sum will be paid to the member’s estate so that the total payments equal the value of the pension fund at retirement.</p> <p>Suppose a man retired at 65 with a pension fund of £100,000 and dies at 72 having received seven years’ pensions totalling £49,000. The balance of £51,000 is paid to his estate, from which 35% income tax is deductible.</p>
valuer	Person whose job is to ascribe values.
value received	Words that may appear on a bill of exchange to indicate that either value has been received by the drawer from the payee or by the acceptor from the

drawer.

Strictly speaking, these words are not necessary as it is assumed that every party whose signature appears on a bill has received value.

value received by the investor

When an investor receives any benefit from a company in which he has invested and claimed **EIS relief**. This can result in some of the relief being withdrawn under Income Tax Act 2007 s213 unless the amount is a **receipt of insignificant value**.

value shifting

One of several types of tax avoidance scheme that aims to shift value in an asset to reduce the taxable gain on it. Provisions to counter such schemes are given in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 from s29.

These provisions are amended by Finance Act 2011 Sch 9.

There are separate provisions for occupational pension schemes in Finance Act 2006 from s181.

value system

Set of ethical values against which **value judgments** can be made about specific situations or people.

value to the business

An idea used in deciding on a measure of **current value**.

vampire

Fictitious person who does not die and lives on human blood. By extension, the term can mean an extortioner or blackmailer.

van

Vehicle

"A mechanically propelled road vehicle which:

(a) is a **good vehicle**, and

(b) has a **design weight** not exceeding 3,500 kilograms,

and which is not a motor cycle"

(Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s115(1) and s235(3)).

The difference between a car and a van is that a car is designed primarily to carry people and the latter primarily designed to carry goods or burden. The number of seats or windows is irrelevant.

In marginal cases, HMRC gives guidance published on its website. This is just guidance and may be challenged at a tribunal. A vehicle may be classified differently for different taxes. In *County Pharmacy [2005]*, the Special Commissioners held that a motor home was a car for income tax purposes, even though it was regarded as a van for VAT.

An employee who is provided with a van that may be used for private journeys may be taxed on its notional value under Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s154. This is known as **van benefit**. There is a separate charge if fuel is also provided.

There are special provisions for a **zero-emission van**.

Other meanings

(1) Advantage.

(2) Shovel used for testing whether ore contains a previous metal.

van benefit	<p>Amount on which an employee is taxed if provided with a van for personal use. If fuel is provided, a separate van fuel benefit is also taxed.</p> <p>From 6 April 2007, the benefit was fixed at £3,000. This figure has been indexed since 6 April 2014. From 6 April 2005, there is no benefit charge if the employee takes the van home to start a business journey next day.</p> <p>Between 6 April 1993 and 5 April 2007, the van benefit was £500, or £350 for an older van.</p> <p>Between 6 April 1990 and 5 April 1993, the van benefit was calculated as an asset used by an employee. Before 6 April 1990, it seems that employees were not taxed for van benefit.</p>
vandalism	<p>Wanton damage of property.</p>
Van den Berghs	<p>Leading case on whether payments are capital or revenue in nature. The full name is <i>Van den Berghs Ltd v Clark [1935] 19TC390</i>. The matter is discussed in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM35530.</p>
van fuel benefit	<p>Amount on which an employee is taxed if provided with a van for personal use and the employer pays for the fuel for the employee's private use.</p> <p>From 6 April 2007, the benefit was £500 a year. This figure has been indexed since 6 April 2014.</p>
vanilla	<p>Simple and conservative, particularly in relation to financial products. The term is an allusion to the common flavour of ice cream.</p>
vanity publishing	<p>When an author pays for a publisher to publish his or her book.</p> <p>For VAT, if the publisher sells the books to the author, the supply is one of zero-rated books. If the publisher retains possession, it is regarded as a mixed supply of zero-rated books and standard-rated publishing (VAT notice 701/10).</p> <p>Agreements have been reached with trade bodies on how to apportion the supply. Details are given in VAT notice 700/57.</p>
Vanuatu	<p>Island country in Pacific Ocean that became independent in 1980. Its currency is the vatu. The UK has no double taxation treaty.</p>
vapour recovery formula	<p>Formula used to determine the amount of oil vapour that has been recovered as usable liquid under the vapour recovery scheme. A formula is used as physical means of measurement, such as tank gauging systems, cannot measure the amount of recovered oil with reasonable accuracy.</p>
vapour recovery scheme	<p>Scheme to ensure that tax is not paid again on petrol whose vapour has been recovered as usable liquid.</p>
vapour recovery unit (VRU)	<p>Device that is legally required at oil terminals to ensure that vapourised oil does not enter the atmosphere. The recovered oil is mixed with existing liquid oil. There is a vapour recovery scheme to ensure that excise duty is not paid again on the recovered oil.</p>

VAR	Value added reseller.
VaR	Value at Risk, term used by the Financial Services Authority.
var	Variable, various or variety.
vara	Spanish-American linear measure that varies from 33 to 43 inches.
Vardy	<p>Name of an unsuccessful scheme to avoid stamp duty land tax.</p> <p>Under the scheme a property was purchased by a UK unlimited company formed for the purpose. It was then returned to the shareholders as a dividend. It was held that the dividend was unlawful as it did not come from company profits.</p> <p>The case was <i>Vardy Properties v Vardy Properties Ltd [2012]</i>. The scheme was explicitly outlawed by anti-avoidance legislation from 6 December 2006. Further details are given in HMRC Spotlight 14.</p>
variable	Description of a figure or amount which changes according to an external factor. In mathematics, this is usually denoted by a letter such as <i>x</i> , <i>y</i> or <i>z</i> .
variable cost	Cost which varies according to the amount of production to which it relates.
variable interest rate	Rate of interest that varies with prevailing rates. The term is commonly used for mortgages.
variable rate	Rate which varies during a defined period, commonly an interest rate which is linked to the base rate.
variable rate securities	Securities whose rate is not fixed. Such securities are excluded from the accrued income scheme (ITA s626). A definition is given in ITA s627.
varia lecto	Latin: a variant reading.
variance	<p>In accounting, difference between actual income or expenditure and the budgeted figure.</p> <p>In law, discrepancy between a statement and a writ.</p>
variance accounting	Another term for variance analysis .
variance analysis	In management accounting, the study of where the actual figures differ from budgeted figures.
variate	In statistics, a variable quantity under study.
variation	<p>Departure from what is expected.</p> <p>In tax, any significant variation in income and expenditure patterns may give rise to query from HMRC. It is advisable for taxpayers to disclose particularly large or unusual variations on the tax return, such as in the white space or in a covering letter.</p>

variations of class rights	Changes in the rights attaching to shares in a company. The legal implications are set out in Companies Act 2006 ss630-640.
varlet	Rogue, knave. The term originally meant a municipal officer or attendant.
Varley assurances	Assurances given to the oil industry in 1974/75 by then Energy Secretary Eric Varley MP (1932-2008) that the government would allow them to extract as much oil as possible and not seek to impose cutbacks by regulation or taxation. These assurances were in effect overturned on a change of government in 1979.
VAS	Voluntary Advisory Service.
vassal	Feudal tenant who owed military service to his landlord.
vastum	Latin: waste.
vat	Large vessel for holding liquid, particularly liquor during manufacture.
VAT	<p><i>General</i></p> <p>Abbreviation of value added tax.</p> <p>[It should be noted that the legislation often uses VAT as the name of the tax, rather than as an abbreviation of the name.]</p> <p>“VAT means value added tax charged in accordance with this Act, or, where the context requires, with the law of another member state” (Value Added Tax 1994 s96(1)).</p> <p><i>Information powers</i></p> <p>For information powers, the term is defined in Finance Act 2008 Sch 36 para 66(3).</p> <p><i>Data-gathering powers</i></p> <p>For the purposes of HMRC data-gathering powers, VAT “means —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) value added tax charged in accordance with [Value Added Tax 1994], and(b) value added tax charged in accordance with the law of another member State, <p>and includes any amount that is recoverable under paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 11 to VATA 1994 (amounts shown on invoices as VAT)” (Finance Act 2011 Sch 23 para 45(3)).</p>
VAT 1	Form used to register a business for value added tax.
VAT 2	Form which must be completed by a partnership that wishes to register for value added tax, in addition to form VAT 1.
VAT 20	Version of form VAT 1 written in Welsh.
VATAAS	Prefix for HMRC’s manual on VAT annual accounting scheme.

VATable	Colloquialism describing a supply that is subject to VAT .
VATAC	Prefix for HMRC's VAT accounting manual.
VAT account	A summary of the totals of output tax, input tax and net tax due for each VAT period.
VATAFRS	Prefix for HMRC's manual on VAT agricultural flat rate scheme.
VAT and Duties Tribunal	A body, independent of HMRC, that provided a method of dealing with disputes concerning VAT, and both customs and excise duties. Its work has now been taken over by tax tribunals .
VAT and excise penalty	Penalty introduced from April 2010 for offences relating to VAT or excise duty.
VAT appeal	An appeal against certain VAT matters may be made under the provisions of Value Added Tax 1994 from s83.
VAT assurance officer	Employee of HMRC who works from an inland office, and visits premises of VAT-registered businesses. The function is to validate VAT returns against business records.
VAT charter	Code of practice issued by Customs and Excise in 1992 regarding VAT.
VAT code	Number which corresponds to a rate of VAT, such as 1 for standard-rate, 2 for reduced rate etc. This number is entered against the product code in an EPOS system so that the correct rate of VAT is charged when the goods are checked out.
VAT credit	Balance of VAT repayable by HMRC when the input tax exceeds the output tax (Value Added Tax Act 1994).
VAT declaration	Statement at the end of a VAT return stating that the signatory believes the information is correct.
VAT default surcharge	Another name for the default surcharge as imposed under Value Added Tax 1994 s59.
VAT, excise and Customs helpline	HMRC telephone helpline that can answer general queries on VAT, Customs duties, insurance premium tax, landfill tax, aggregates levy, air passenger duty, climate change levy and mineral oils duties. It can answer questions from businesses and from the public. The number is 0845 010 9000.
VAT fraction	Fraction used to calculate the VAT element of a VAT-inclusive price. An explanation is provided in VAT notice 700. The fraction is: $\text{VAT fraction} = \frac{\text{VAT rate}}{100 + \text{VAT rate}}$

So for 20% VAT, the VAT fraction is 20/120 or one sixth. So if an item is bought for £12 including VAT, the VAT element is one sixth or £2.

VAT rate	VAT fraction
25%	1/5
20%	1/6
17.5%	7/47
15%	3/23
12.5%	1/9
10%	1/11
8%	2/27
5%	1/21

VAT group

Group of organisations that operate under a single VAT registration.

Unlike corporation tax provisions, the taxpayer may choose which bodies to include within the registration. It is not, for example, a requirement that all companies within a group (for company law or corporation tax purposes) must be in a VAT group.

Supplies between bodies within the group are ignored for VAT. No VAT is charged on supplies and no input tax may be claimed.

Conversely, a supply from an organisation within a VAT group to one outside it is subject to VAT, whatever their relationship may be for other purposes.

The relevant law is Value Added Tax Act 1994 ss43-44 and Sch 9A, and SI 2004 No 1931.

VAT guide

VAT notice 700 which provides general guidance on the operation of VAT. The publication is available free from HMRC and may be freely downloaded from HMRC website.

Vatican

Palace of the Pope, which is recognised as an independent state within Italy from 1929. It issues its own currency modelled on the euro. The UK has no double taxation treaty.

VAT inspection

Visit by officers of HMRC to check on the correctness of **VAT returns**.

VAT inspector

Office of HMRC whose job is to check on the correctness of **VAT returns**.

VAT invoice

Invoice which shows VAT and meets the requirements of VAT regulations.

Under SI 1995 No 2518, a VAT invoice must generally show:

- a unique sequential invoice number
- the time of supply or other **tax point**
- the date of issue of the invoice
- the trader's name and address
- the trader's VAT registration number
- the customer's name and address
- a description of the goods or services supplied, and to which the invoice relates
- for each item supplied, the VAT-exclusive charge, and the rate of

VAT applied

- for countable items, the quantity supplied and unit charge (such as per item or per hour)
- the total amount of the invoice, excluding VAT
- the total amount of VAT charged, and the total value of the invoice

- any discount offered, such as for prompt payment
- additional details if the supply is made under special provisions such as a margin scheme, reverse charge or tour operators' margin scheme.

If the supply is zero-rated to a business in another EU state, the invoice must also give the customer's VAT number with the appropriate country prefix code.

Less detailed invoices are permitted for supplies below £250.

The right to claim **input tax** depends in part on having a valid VAT invoice.

An invoice may be issued electronically.

VAT leaflet

HMRC publication which gives guidance on a narrow area of VAT which is too specialised for a **VAT notice**. They are numbered as subsidiary to the VAT notice, in the form 700/9 (which deals with transfers of a going concern). VAT leaflets are available free from HMRC.

VAT lock

Provision for the period to the next general election after 2015 for VAT which:

- keeps the standard rate at no higher than 20%
- keeps the reduce rate at no higher than 5%
- bars the removal of an item from the scope of reduced rate
- bars the removal of an item from the scope of zero rate.

(Finance (No 2) Act 2015 s1(1)-(4)).

VAT lock period

Period from 18 November 2015 to the day before the next general election for which the **VAT lock** applies (Finance (No 2) Act 2015 s1(5)).

VAT notes

Free HMRC leaflet which is automatically issued with VAT returns to notify traders of recent changes in VAT law.

VAT notice

HMRC publication which gives guidance on a broad area of VAT. They have three-digit numbers starting with 7. The most important is the **VAT Guide**, number 700. More detailed points are covered in **VAT leaflets**. VAT notices are available free from HMRC.

VAT number

Unique nine-digit number which identifies a business which is registered for VAT. The number complies with an algorithm called the **rule of 97**.

The VAT number must be quoted on all invoices, VAT returns and correspondence about VAT.

VAT office

Office of HMRC where a person is registered for VAT.

VAT Online

An online service which will allow businesses to register for VAT, amend their registration details and submit VAT Returns and payments via the new HM

Revenue & Customs website.

VAT Online Returns Service	A service where the customer can submit their VAT Returns electronically.
VAT on-line service for agents	Service for agents who submit VAT returns for clients. The agent must be registered with HMRC before being able to act. The agent need not be VAT-registered himself or herself.
VAT package	Term used for various European-wide changes in VAT law on 1 January 2010. These particularly relate to business-to-business supplies being taxed in the country of consumption rather than the country of supply.
VAT paid	Description of a figure where the VAT due has already been paid.
VAT period	Period for which a VAT return must be prepared. This is usually for three months but can be for one month or one year.
VAT provisions	In relation to overpaid VAT, means any Act, other form of legislation or HMRC notice (Value Added Tax 1994 s80(3C)).
VAT rate	The rate at which VAT is charged on a supply.
VAT receivable	Account for businesses which routinely reclaim VAT, usually because their outputs are zero-rated.
VAT register	List of all businesses registered for VAT.
VAT-registered	Description of a business which is registered with HMRC for the purpose of charging value added tax (VAT) .
VAT registration	Process whereby a business is registered for VAT and given a registration number.
VAT repayment supplement	Amount, equivalent to interest, which may be added to a refund of VAT under the provisions of Value Added Tax Act 1994 s79. The supplement is specifically excluded from corporation tax by Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1286.
VAT representative	Person in the UK who acts for someone based overseas (Value Added Tax Act 1994 s48).
VAT return	A standard form completed at regular intervals by VAT registered businesses, to declare VAT. It is signed and sent to HMRC. The interval is usually every three months, but can be one month or one year. For a change of accounting date, it may be one or two months.
VAT return reminder	A VAT return reminder is sent by email to inform customers (or clients, if an Agent) that the VAT Online Return is due. This replaced the paper VAT return for VAT Online users.

VAT Returns for Agents Service

A service for Agents allowing them to submit their client's VAT Returns online.

VAT right

For transactions connected with fraud, the term "includes the right to deduct input tax, the right to apply a zero rate to international supplies and any other right connected with VAT in relation to a supply" (Value Added Tax Act 1994 s69C(5) as inserted by Finance (No 2) Act 2017 s68(2)).

For these purposes s69C(6) establishes that the EU case law to determine such matters are:

(a) joined Cases C-439/04 and C-440/04 *Axel Kittel v. Belgian State; Belgium v. Recolta Recycling* (denial of right to deduct input tax), and

(b) Case C-273/11 (b) *Mecsek-Gabona Kft v Nemzeti Adó- és Vámhivatal Dél-dunántúli Regionális Adó Főigazgatósága* (denial of right to zero rate).

The penalty under these provisions is 30% of the potential lost VAT.

VAT schemes wizard

HMRC-produced software that helps a registered VAT agent to decide which VAT schemes are most appropriate for a client.

VAT surcharge

Penalty for being late with a VAT return or payment (Value Added Tax Act 1994 s59).

This is not deductible against trading profits for income tax (Income Tax (Trading And Other Income) Act 2005s54).

VAT that would have been chargeable

Term used in Value Added Tax Act 1994 s18E in relation to **fiscal warehouses**.

VAT value adjustment

Figure used to calculate VAT on the delivery element of imported goods.

VAT is charged on the whole cost of importing goods including the delivery charge to the UK address. As goods delivered next to airport have a lower UK delivery cost than those delivered hundreds of miles away, the delivery charge is calculated as the cost of delivery to the port plus an average figure for delivery within the UK.

In 2015, sea freight had a charge of between £170 and £550. Airfreight had a minimum charge of £100.

vatu

Currency of Vanuatu.

vault

Chamber with an arched roof. The term is popularly used to mean any reinforced place for storing bullion or other valuable items. Unlike a **safe**, a vault is part of the building. It is typically fitted with many security devices.

Vault, The

Name popularly given to the high security value of the Royal Mint that is permanently guarded by the military.

VB

Visual Basic, computing term.

VBRA

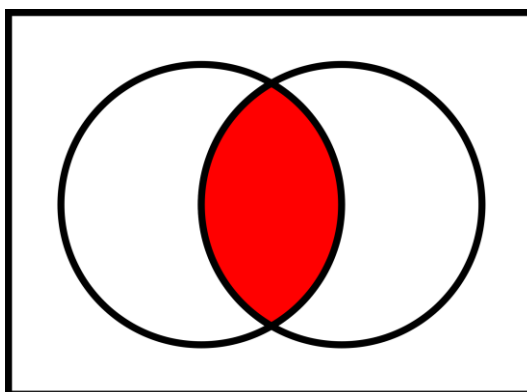
Vehicle Builders and Repairers Association.

VC	(1) Victoria Cross. (2) Vice-Chancellor.
V-C	Vice-Chancellor.
VCLT	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, adopted in 1969.
VCOAD	Voluntary Committee on Overseas Aid and Development.
V code	Tax code for PAYE which has the suffix V. This code is abolished from 6 April 2009. It applied to taxpayers who were born before 6 April 1935 but who were not 75 by the end of the tax year. As all taxpayers born by 5 April 1935 were 75 by the end of the 2009/10 tax year, the V code became otiose.
VCP	Vehicle Check Point.
VCR	Video cassette recorder.
VCRA	Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.
VCT	Venture capital trust
VCT approval	Approval by HMRC that a company is a venture capital trust (Income Tax Act 2007 s259(2)).
VCT-in-liquidation	The tax provisions for a venture capital trust in liquidation are set out in Chapter 5 of Income Tax Act 2007, that is from s314. The term is fully defined in s320.
VCU	VAT Central Unit, part of HMRC responsible for sending out VAT Returns at regular intervals to all registered businesses, receiving back the completed returns and tax payments and for making repayments when they are due.
VDQS	Vin Délimite Qualité Supérieure, French classification of fine wine.
VDR	Voyage data recorder.
VDT	Visual display terminal.
VDU	Visual display unit , of computer.
VE	(1) Term used in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s444ABB for calculating retained assets in determining profits for life assurance companies. It is determined by figures entered on Form 14 completed by such companies. (2) Vocational education. (3) Victory in Europe, celebration on 8 May 1945.
Vectian	Pertaining to the Isle of Wight.

vector	In mathematics, a straight line that denotes both direction and magnitude.
VED	Vehicle excise duty.
VEF	ISO code for Venezuelan bolivar.
vegetable fat	Means "a triglyceride of vegetable origin" (Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 s23C(5)(d)).
vegetable juice	The addition of this to a soft drink is not taken as adding sugar for the purposes of soft drinks industry levy (Finance Act 2017 s29(3)).
vegetables	These are usually zero-rated as food. Vegetable oils may also be zero-rated "even if they are used as massage or cosmetic oils, provided they are of a type and grade suitable for culinary purposes, and they do not contain any substance, such as perfume, that would make them unsuitable for culinary use" (VAT notice 701/14).
vehicle	<p>Any means of transport. Most law relates to motor vehicles, which are defined as mechanically propelled vehicles designed or adapted for use on the roads (Road Traffic Acts).</p> <p>A passenger vehicle is exempt from capital gains tax (Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s263).</p>
vehicle adaptation	Change made to a vehicle, particularly one to allow a disabled person to drive it.
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)	Government body that oversees transport regulations.
vehicle excise duty (VED)	<p>Tax charged for using a mechanical vehicle on a public road.</p> <p>VED is paid in advance for 12 months or 4 months at a time. It is evidenced by a circular tax disc which must be displayed on the vehicle's windscreen. Obtaining the tax disc is also a check that the vehicle is insured and has a valid MOT certificate.</p> <p>For vehicles first registered from 1 March 2001, VED is charged according to the amount of carbon dioxide it emits. There were seven bands indicated A to F, to which a seventh G was added from 23 March 2006. From 1 April 2009, there are 13 bands indicated by the letters A to M. From 1 April 2010, there is a higher rate of VED for the first year for the lowest four and highest six bands. This has been called the showroom tax.</p>
vehicle group	<p>Category of vehicle for some financial purpose. For example, in determining AA running costs of cars, there are five vehicle groups based on the original cost of the car.</p> <p>vehicle identification number (VIN)</p> <p>Unique number allocated by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to every vehicle allowed to be on the road.</p>

vehicle identity	Defining characteristics of a vehicle. Repair does not change vehicle identity but modifications or significant rebuild can. A change of vehicle identity requires the vehicle to be re-registered.
vehicle identity check (VIC)	Scheme designed to prevent stolen or scrapped cars being resold.
vehicle registration	Process of recording a vehicle with the central register run by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority . The registration is indicated by the number plate . The registration to a particular individual is shown in the registration certificate .
vehicle scrappage scheme	<p>Scheme which provides a sum to a person for scrapping an old car to buy a new one.</p> <p>In the UK, the scheme was introduced from 1 June 2009. It paid £2,000 to anyone who scrapped a car at least ten years old and bought a new one. Of this, £1,000 came from the government and the other £1,000 had to come from the car dealer. The scheme was intended to help the troubled car industry and to promote more environmentally-friendly vehicles.</p>
veil of incorporation	Rule that a limited company has a separate legal identity from its founder. This is a fundamental principle of company law . The case commonly cited is <i>Salomon v Salomon & Co [1897]</i> which provides a clear example of the principle already then well established. In some cases, the court may be prepared to lift the veil of incorporation .
vellon	Old Spanish copper coin.
Veltema	<p>A case on the powers of HMRC regarding a discovery assessment.</p> <p>A taxpayer was liable to tax on the value of a property transferred to him from a company which was professionally value at £100,000. This was disclosed on the tax return and was not challenged.</p> <p>The company submitted its return showing the same valuation, but this time it was challenged as a discovery assessment after the deadline for an ordinary assessment. The value was eventually agreed at £145,000.</p> <p>The taxpayer appealed on the grounds that there was nothing to discover as the amount had already been disclosed. The matter depended on whether the inspector could be "reasonably aware" of an insufficiency on a return. In this case, the Court of Appeal held that the inspector could not be so aware, so the discovery assessment was allowed.</p> <p>The full citation is <i>Langham v Veltema [2004] 76 TC 259</i>.</p> <p>HMRC's view was subsequently set out in statement of practice SP1/06.</p>
velum	Specially treated goatskin on which Acts of Parliament are traditionally printed. Two copies are so produced, one for the House of Lords and one for the Public Records Office. These contain vellum Acts from 1497. Private Acts have been printed on archive paper since 1956. On 2 November 2015, it was decided that the Public Records Office copy of all Acts may also be printed on archive paper.

velvet glove	Gentleness that conceals strength.
Ven	Venerable, title of an archdeacon.
venal	Open to bribery.
vend	Sell or offer for sale.
vendange	Grape harvest.
vendee	Person to whom something is sold.
vendeuse	Saleswoman, from the French.
vending machine	<p>Machine that sells goods on insertion of sufficient coins. Modern machines may also give change.</p> <p>The presence of a machine creates a unilateral contract when used by a purchaser.</p> <p>For VAT, a person who allows a vending machine on their premises is regarded as making a standard-rated supply of services. It is not a zero-rated supply of use of land unless the contract specifies the exact area for the machine.</p> <p>For a supply of food and drink, a vending machine is regarded as a supply of catering for consumption on the premises where the machine is situated. <i>Burnham Radio Recreational & Welfare Club [1977] VTD 518.</i> and <i>Macklin Services (Vending) West Ltd [1979] VTD 688.</i></p> <p>In accounting, the cash and goods held in a machine are part of the cash and stock of a business on balance sheet date.</p> <p>Such a machine is specifically excluded from the scope of amusement machine licence duty.</p>
venditioni exponas	Latin: that you expose for sale. An old writ that may be sought by a sheriff who has seized goods that cannot be sold for the price expected.
vendor	Seller, particularly of land.
vendue	American term once used to mean an auction.
Venezuela	South American country. Its currency is the bolivar fuerte of 100 céntimos. The UK has a double taxation agreement of 1996. The country experienced hyperinflation in 2017.
venire de novo	Writ issued by a court to a lower court requiring its erroneous verdict to be vacated and for the matter to be retried.
venire facias	<p>Latin: cause to come.</p> <p>An old writ requiring the sheriff to assemble a jury.</p>
Venn diagram	Diagram in which set and their relations are illustrated by overlapping circles. It is named after the English logician John Venn (1834-1925)



ventilation

Value added tax

For VAT, a supply of ventilation is treated as a supply of goods (Value Added Tax Act 1994 Sch 4 para 3). As such, supplies for residential use are generally reduced-rated under *ibid* Sch 7A Group 1, but standard-rated for other supplies. Details are given in VAT notice 701/19.

Capital allowances

For capital allowances, this may qualify as a **feature 20% a building** (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s33A).

Vento rules

Rules formulated by the Court of Appeal on how to determine compensation for injured feelings in employment cases. The name comes from the case *Vento v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police*.

The guidance is broadly that:

- the top band of between £15,000 and £25,000 should be awarded for the most serious cases, such as a lengthy campaign of discriminatory harassment
- the middle band of between £5,000 and £15,000 should be awarded for serious cases that do not merit an award in the top band
- the lowest band of between £500 and £5,000 is appropriate for less serious cases, such as where the act of discrimination is an isolated instance.

In the Vento case, the employee had been subjected to “four traumatic years” of bullying that led to clinical depression. The tribunal awarded her £50,000 but the court reduced this to £18,000.

venture

Commercial enterprise, particularly one whose success is uncertain.

venture capital

Money invested in a **venture**.

venture capital trust (VCT)

Form of tax-advantaged vehicle for investment in companies, often high-risk companies. A VCT is itself a company whose shares are traded on stock markets. The Financial Conduct Authority suggests that buyers of such shares should be sophisticated investors with an annual income of at least £100,000 or investments of at least £250,000. Finance companies often recommend that a VCT should not be more than 10% of an investor's portfolio.

A VCT is defined in Income Tax Act 2007 s259(1) as being not a close company which is approved as a VCT by HMRC.

The scheme allows immediate tax relief equal to 30% of the sum invested (this was 40% for 2004/05 to 2005/06, and 20% previously). Also, capital gains tax liabilities may be rolled over.

The shares must be held for five years (three years before 6 April 2006).

The VCT must be quoted on the Stock Exchange, invest at least 70% of its funds in unquoted companies, invest at least 30% of its funds in new unquoted companies, and invest no more than 15% of its funds in any one company. There are other conditions.

Capital gains tax law is contained in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 from s151A.

Specific provisions for the taxation of the trust itself are given in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s396.

- venturer** "A party to a **joint venture** that has joint control over that joint venture" (FRS 102 glossary).
- venue** In law, a place where a trial or hearing is to take place. There are rules about where the venue must be.
- venville** Form of tenure exclusive to certain parishes in Dartmoor that give tenants the right to use land on Dartmoor.
- VERA** Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994.
- vera causa** Latin: true cause.
- veracity** In ethics, the character of truthfulness such that the speaker may be believed. In tax cases, this is often referred to as the character of the witness.
- verba accipienda sunt speculum subjectam materiem**
Latin: words are to be interpreted in accordance with the subject matter.
- verba chartarum forties accipiuntur contra proferentem**
Latin: the words of deeds are to be interpreted most strongly against him who uses them.
- verba cum effectu accipienda sunt**
Latin: words are to be interpreted in such a way as to give them some effect.
- verba forties accipiuntur contra proferentem**
Latin: words must be construed against those who use them.
- verba generalia restringuntur ad habilitatem rei vel aptitudinem personae**
Latin: general words are restricted to the nature of the subject matter or the aptitude of the person.
- verba intentioni, non e contra, debent inservire**
Latin: words ought to be made subservient to the intent, and not the other way round.

verba ita sunt intelligenda ut res magis valeat quam pereat

Latin: words are to be understood that the object may be carried out and not fail.

verballing

Colloquial term for a statement adduced in evidence which has not been freely given by the witness but has been written for him by the police or other investigating or prosecuting authority. The commonest example is the **drainpipe admission**.

verba relata hoc maxime operantur per referentiam ut in eis inesse videntur

Latin: words to which reference is made in an instrument have the same operation as if they were inserted in the instrument referring to them.

verbatim

In law, description of a text that exactly corresponds to another, without paraphrase or use of equivalent meanings.

verbatim et litteratim

Latin: word for word, and letter for letter.

verbum sapientis sat est

Latin: a word to the wise is enough.

verderer

An official having legal authority in a forest.

verdict

Answer of a jury on a question of fact.

Verify

System used on government software which allows an individual to confirm their identity and be given passwords that make accessing government services easier.

The procedure was extended to tax in 2015.

veritas vos liberabit

Latin: the truth shall set you free. This is John 8:32 in the Bible. It is the motto of various bodies.

vermin

A local authority may not make any charge if they compel a person infested with vermin to be cleansed or have their clothes cleansed using the authority's equipment (if any). (Cleansing of Persons Act 1897 s1).

vermouth

Blended alcoholic liquor. If it has used the same name from before 4 May 1932, it is exempt from some provisions of Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979 s71(2)(b).

Vern

Vernon's Reports, Chancery law reports published from 1680 to 1719.

versus (v)

Against. The term is used in **citations** of law reports to identify the parties.

vert

In law, the right to cut greenery in a forest.

vertebrate

"Means any animal of the Sub-phylum Vertebrata of the Phylum Chordata" (Animal Welfare Act 2006 s1(5)). This definition is used for "wild animal" in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1217FB(5). This disallows theatrical productions tax relief if a wild animal is used in a performance. A wild animal is defined as a

“vertebrate other than man” in Animal Welfare Act 2006 s1(1).

vertical communication	Communication between different levels of staff, such as from senior to junior staff.
vertical equity	Principle that people with different incomes should pay different amounts of tax.
vertical form	Layout of a balance sheet which lists the assets and liabilities <i>above</i> the funds which it represents, rather than beside them.
vertical integration	Another term for backward integration .
vertical search	In computing, a form of search engine that concentrates on a specific segment of web content, such as mode of content or subject matter.
vertical thinking	Logical thinking, as against lateral thinking.
VESA	Video Electronics Standards Authority.
Ves Jun	Vesey's junior Chancery Reports, law reports published from 1789 to 1817.
vessel	For oil duty, “includes any tank or container for storing oil and any still or utensils in which oil may be processed” (Hydrocarbon Oil Regulations SI 1973 No 1311 reg 2).
vest	(1) Deliver to a person the full possession of land, and so clothe him with its legal estate. (2) For accounting, “become an entitlement. Under a share-based payment arrangement, a counterparty's right to receive cash, other assets or equity instruments of the entity vests when the counterparty's entitlement is no longer conditional on the satisfaction of any vesting conditions” (FRS 102 glossary).
vesta	Wax-stemmed match.
vest bag	Term sometimes used by a supermarket for a single use carrier bag . So called because it looks a little like the garment vest.
vested benefits	“Benefits, the rights to which, under the conditions of a retirement benefit plan, are not conditional on continued employment” (FRS 102 glossary).
vested interest	Special interest in keeping an existing state of affairs.
vested rights	For pensions, rights given to different classes of member.
vesting	Legal process by which ownership is transferred, such as in bankruptcy.

vesting assent	Instrument whereby a personal representative vests land in a tenant for life under Settled Land Act 1925 s117(1).
vesting date	Term used in relation to disguised remuneration (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s554H(1)(c)).
vesting declaration	Declaration made by an appointor in a deed appointing new trustees. The declaration states that property is to be vested in the trustees.
vesting deed	Deed that includes a vesting declaration .
vesting order	Court order vesting property in a person stated. This commonly happens when trustees are unwilling or unable to act in such a capacity. Under company law, a court may make such an order when a claim is made by a person against disclaimed property of a struck off company (Companies Act 2006 s1017).
vesture	In law, vegetation covering the soil.
vestry	Historically, the meeting of a parish to discuss matters of civil interest. Such meetings are now largely replaced by various forms of local council. The term remains for a room in the church.
veteran	Person who has seen long experience in an activity, particularly in the military.
veteran car	Car made before 1905.
Vet MB	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine.
veto	The right to block a decision. The word is Latin for "I forbid".
vexatious litigant	Person who repeatedly brings legal actions. It is possible to get an order against such a person who must then obtain permission from the court before commencing any further legal actions.
VF	Video frequency or voice frequency.
VFM	Value for money.
vg	Very good.
VGA	Video graphics array, a system for a computer display.
VHCC	Very High Cost Case.
VHF	Very high frequency, term used in radio.
VHR	Veterinary Homeopathic Remedy.

VHS	Video home system, the system that became standard for video cassettes.
VI	(1) Virgin Islands. (2) Roman numeral for 6. (3) Vehicle inspectorate. (4) Vancouver Island.
viaduct	For capital allowances, this is specifically excluded from the scope of plant and machinery (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s22(1) List B).
viaticum	Money or other provision for a journey. The term is usually expressed in the plural of either viaticums or viatica.
VIB	Visual information board, Companies House term.
VIC	Vehicle identity check.
vicar	<p>Church of England parson of a parish. Historically, the vicar received the smaller tithes whereas a rector received the greater tithes. This system was abolished in 1868, but the titles remain.</p> <p>A vicar is an office holder. For PAYE and national insurance purposes, he or she is taxed as an employee of the church.</p> <p>There are some special tax provisions for ministers of religion.</p>
vicarious liability	<p>When one person is legally held liable for the actions of another.</p> <p>An employer can be vicariously liable for actions of an employee, an agent for a principal, and a parent for a child.</p>
vicenary	Based on the number twenty.
vice tax	Colloquial name for a sumptuary tax on a product or service that is seen as harmful or socially undesirable. Examples include excise duty on alcohol and tobacco.
vice versa	Latin: change turned. The reverse to the position just mentioned.
vicious circle	Situation in which the solution of one problem creates another.
Vickers Report	<p>Report produced in 2011 on banking by Independent Commission on Banking, following the banking crisis of 2008.</p> <p>The report's main recommendation was that banks should ring-fence domestic retail banking from riskier forms of banking.</p>
victim blaming	Practice of blaming the victim of a crime for the offence. It is most commonly used against rape victims, but also against victims of theft for not taking appropriate protection or of flaunting their wealth. The term was coined in 1971 by psychologist William Ryan who wrote a book with that title.

victim of theft	Such a person has the right to object to his stolen property being sold under a recovery order against a criminal (Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 s281).
Victims' Information Service (VIS)	Government scheme launched in 2015 to assist victims of serious crime.
Victim's Right to Review (VRR)	<p>Scheme established by the Crown Prosecution Service.</p> <p>It applies to decisions made from 5 June 2013, following comments made by the judge in the case <i>R v Christopher Killick [2011] EWCA Crim 1608</i>. Such a scheme is also required by Article 11 of the European Directive on the rights of victims of crime.</p> <p>Decisions are made under the Victims' Code of 10 December 2013.</p>
Victoria	Queen of Great Britain from 1837 to 1901.
Victoria Cross	Award for bravery. Payments of pension or annuity in respect of the award are free of income tax (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s638).
victualling-bill	Customs document that warrants the captain of a ship to take bonded goods for the voyage.
victuals	Provisions of food.
vide	Latin: see.
videlicet (viz)	Latin: that is to say.
video	Any means of recording moving images, with or without sound.
videoconferencing	Discussion between people in different locations using video equipment.
video equipment	For VAT on charity funded equipment , "includes video recording and playback equipment" (VAT notice 701/6).
video evidence	When evidence is presented in court by means of a pre-recorded interview on video tape or similar (Criminal Justice Act 2003 s137).
video game	For the purposes of video games relief, this term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1217AA. In particular it excludes anything produced for gambling or promotion.
video game losses	For video games tax relief, the tax provisions are set out in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1217D.
video games development	This attracts its own tax relief under Corporation Tax Act 2009 from s1217A as inserted by Finance Act 2013 s36 and Sch17 with effect from 1 April 2014.
video games development activities	For the purposes of video games tax relief, this term is defined in Corporation

Tax Act 2009 s1217AC.

video games development company

For the purposes of video games relief, this term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1217AB.

video games machine

For VAT purposes, this is regarded as an **amusement machine** (VAT notice 701/13).

video games tax relief

Relief introduced in 2010 to provide similar tax relief for British video games as for British films. The relief was scrapped on a change of government.

video hearing and language

A system whereby parties may participate in a tribunal hearing using a video link. Its first use at a tax tribunal case was in *Ewa Gondek [2018] TC 6440* on 8 March 2018.

video machine

A machine that plays video recordings rather than video games is exempt from **amusement machine licence duty**.

video production

VAT flat rate scheme

Under the VAT flat rate scheme, the appropriate percentage is generally:

From	Percentage
4 January 2011	13%
1 January 2010	11.5%
1 December 2008	9.5%
1 January 2004	10.5%

video relay service (VRS)

Facility where people may communicate via video link. The Department of Work and Pensions launched a VRS on 15 January 2016 so that deaf people can communicate using British Sign Language.

vidimus

Rare term that means an attested copy, such as of accounts.

viduous

Widowed.

Vienna Convention

Diplomatic relations

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations signed in 1961.

In the UK, the convention is implemented by Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964. Goods and services provided to those with diplomatic immunity are exempt from duties and tax.

The Convention is given as Sch 1 of the Act. The immunity from taxation is given in Article 23.

Treaties

(2) Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969.

This requires treaties to be interpreted in good faith in accordance with the ordinary meaning of words used, in the light of their context and the

object and purpose of the treaty.

VIES	VAT Information and Exchange System - an intra European Union (EU) system for providing information about sales made by traders within the EU based on lists supplied by the traders to their own authorities.
vi et armis	Latin: with force and arms, a term used to mean trespass.
Vietnam	Eastern country. Its currency is the dong of 10 ho or 100 xu. The UK has a double taxation agreement of 1994.
view to resale	<p>In accounting, acquisition of a subsidiary with a view to reselling it within one year (FRS 2).</p> <p>Such a subsidiary does not have to be consolidated in the group accounts.</p>
vigesimal	Based on the number 20.
vigilantibus, non dormientibus, jura subveniunt	Latin: the laws give help to those who are watchful and not to those who sleep.
vigorous	American slang for a percentage of a gambler's winnings taken by the bookmaker.
village	Clustered human settlement, bigger than a hamlet but smaller than a town. The historic difference was that a village had one church. There is no formal legal definition.
village hall	<p>Provisions of facilities at a village hall may meet the conditions of a recreational trust as set out in Charities Act 2011 s3(4)(a).</p> <p>The construction of a village hall may qualify for zero-rating. However, this is a much litigated area, particularly where the hall is also used for another purpose, such as a sports club.</p>
villein	From 13 th century, a serf who has been set free from all forms of slavery and servitude except to the local lord. It had largely died out by 1500.
vin	French: wine.
VIN	Vehicle identification number
vinasse	Residue from alcohol distillation.
vinegar	Condiment and pickling medium with a bitter taste from containing acetic acid. It is traditionally made from brewing and fermentation and is therefore subject to some controls in relating to alcohol liquor duty, while not being subject to the duty itself.

vinegarisation	Process of turning alcoholic drink to vinegar. It is one of the methods of destruction of liquor and permits a refund of excise duty.
vinegar-maker	Such a person is exempt from some of the legal restrictions of manufacturing spirits without a licence (Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979 s25).
vingt-et-un	This game is specifically listed in Betting and Gaming Duties Act 1981 s13(3) as coming within the scope of gaming licence duty .
vino	Colloquial term for wine.
vintage	Year that wine was produced, or the quality of wine for that year.
vintage car	Car made between 1919 and 1930.
violence	Any form of unjustifiable force. In employment law, violence usually justifies summary dismissal .
violent profits	In Scots law, rents or profits of an estate obtained by a tenant wrongfully holding over, after warning and recoverable in process of removing at double the actual rate for urban land and at the highest possible yield for rural land.
VIP	Very important person.
VIR	Vulcanised India rubber.
viral marketing	Management term for encouraging customers to spread knowledge of a business to potential new customers.
virement	Authorised transfer of funds from one budget to another, such as when an organisation reallocates a surplus in one fund to another fund.
vir et uxor censentur in lege una persona	Latin: husband and wife are considered one person in law.
virgate	Old measure of land of about 30 acres.
virgin gold	Gold in the form in which it was found.
virgin territory	Colloquial term for an area where a business does not yet operate, or an area of a country devoid of buildings and infrastructure.
virtual card	Single use credit or debit card. Once used, it becomes worthless, providing additional security.
virtual currency	“A digital representation of value, not issued by a central bank, credit institution or e-money institution, which in some circumstances can be used as an alternative to money” (European Central Bank). Virtual currency is also called cryptocurrency .

virtually	<p>Term used frequently in tax law to qualify “all” or “none”, or equivalent terms. Its meaning is to disallow only a very small amount. So someone has “virtually no benefit” if the actual benefit is trivial.</p> <p>The matter was expressed by Lord Hoffman in relation to gifts with reservation in <i>Ingram</i> as: “for one thing, it is in one sense a penal section. Not only may you not have your cake and eat it, but if you eat more than a few de minimis crumbs of what was given, you are deemed for tax purposes to have eaten the lot”.</p>
virtually to the exclusion of	<p>Term used in inheritance tax in relation to gifts with reservation (GWR), where it is a condition that the gift is to the exclusion or “virtually the entire exclusion” of benefit to the donor to avoid the GWR provisions. HMRC has stated that this means that the benefit to the donor is “small”.</p> <p>Where a donor has given a house to a donee, HMRC accepts that there is no GWR if the donor subsequently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• stays with the donee for up to two weeks a year;• stays at the house without the donee for up to one month a year;• makes purely social visits staying for one night;• stays for a temporary reason, such as for medical care or convalescence (of either donor or donee);• stays for a domestic reason, such as baby-sitting;• visits up to five times a year to use the library. <p>Other examples include using a donated motor car no more than three times a month, or using donated land to ride a horse or exercise a dog but not so as to restrict the donee’s use.</p>
virtual organisation	<p>Management term for an organisation structure seen from its technology rather than people.</p>
virtuous circle	<p>Situation where one good effect leads to another causing a chain of positive results.</p>
virtus non stemma	<p>Latin: virtue not pedigree.</p>
virtus post nummos	<p>Latin: virtue after money (quote from Horace).</p>
virtute officii	<p>Latin: by virtue of office.</p>
virus	<p>In computing, malicious program whose purpose is to damage computer data or obstruct the operation of the computer. Protection may be afforded by a firewall.</p>
VIS	<p>Victims’ Information Service.</p>
visa	<p>Endorsement on a passport permitting the holder to enter or leave a country.</p>
viscount	<p>Order of peerage between baron and earl, first granted in 1440.</p>

Visegrad Countries	A group of countries, comprising: Czech Republic; Hungary; Poland and Slovakia.
vishing	In computing, the practice of using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) calls to gain confidential information for financial gain.
visible exports, imports	In economics, exports or imports of goods, as against invisible exports or imports of such things as insurance and financial services.
vis inertiae	Latin: the power of inactivity.
vision print	Photographic record of a document. Vision prints are made of all paper VAT returns and may be submitted as evidence when a paper copy is no longer available.
visit by VAT officers	Routine visits to check VAT returns and supporting records. Their conduct is discussed in VAT notice 700.
visiting book	Record of people who have visited a place. It can be an evidential document in a tax investigation.
visiting forces	A body, contingent or attachment of the armed forces of another country, stationed in the UK on the invitation of the British Government. They are generally exempt from UK income tax. The provisions are set out in Income Tax Act 2007 s833. Their accommodation is specifically excluded from council tax.
visiting performer	Entertainer or sports person who is non-resident in a tax year but visits the UK and earns income (Income Tax (Trading And Other Income) Act 2005s13 and Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1309).
visitors' passport	Simplified and easily obtained passport that was valid for one year. It was discontinued in 1995.
vis major	Irresistible force such as earthquake. It is an excepted peril in a contract of marine insurance.
visual display unit (VDU)	Old term for what is now called a computer monitor.
vita	Latin: life. It is also used as an abbreviation for curriculum vitae or CV.
vital	Essential to life. The term should not be used just to mean important.
vitiligation	Vexatious wrangling.
viva voce	Oral testimony or oral examination.
viz	Abbreviation of videlicet , Latin for "that is to say".
VJ	Voluntary jurisdiction.

VJ Day	Victory over Japan in the second world war, celebrated on 15 August 1945.
vl	Varia lectio, Latin: variant reading.
VL32	Term used in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s444ABB in relation life assurance companies. It refers to the figure entered in line 32 on Form 40 completed by such companies.
VLCC	Very large crude carrier, a tanker of between 20,000 and 32,000 tonnes.
VLF	Very low frequency, radio term.
VLO	Valuation Liaison Officer.
vlog	Website comprising mainly moving pictures.
VLR	Victorian Law Reports, published from 1875 to 1956.
VLSI	Very large scale integration, computing term.
VMD	(1) Veterinary Medicines Directorate. (2) Doctor of veterinary medicine.
VMH	Victoria Medal of Honour.
VMI	Vertical motion index, computing term.
VND	ISO code for Vietnamese dong.
VO	(1) Veterinary officer. (2) Royal Victorian Order.
VOA	Valuation Office Agency.
vocation	<p>For income tax purposes, how “a person passes his or her life and indicates a calling, although not necessarily one related to religion or high-minded service to others. A bookmaker and a jockey have been held to engage in vocations and authors, dramatists and professional singers have all been dealt with by the Courts on the basis that they carried on vocations.” (Inspectors’ Manual BIM14090).</p> <p>Vocation “means the way in which a person passes his life” (<i>Denman J in Partridge v Mallandaine [1896] 2 TC 179</i>).</p>
vocational training	From 6 April 1992 to 5 April 2000, a taxpayer could claim tax relief for vocational training. This was subject to many conditions, particularly that it should lead to an NVQ qualification or Scottish equivalent. From 6 April 1999, tax relief was restricted to the basic rate of income tax.

VOD	Video on demand.
VODG	Voluntary Organisations Disability Group.
voetstoots	Afrikaan: as it stands. Term meaning that the buyer acquires the goods as they are with any defects.
Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)	<p>Protocol that allows spoken telephony over the Internet by Skype or similar provider.</p> <p>The provision of such a service comes within the scope of the reverse charge for the VAT place of supply rules from 1 January 2015.</p>
void	Of no legal effect. Such a contract is regarded as never having happened. Any consideration provided must be returned.
voidable	Agreement or other act which one party may choose to make void . Until such an election has been made, the agreement remains legally valid.
voidable marriage	<p>Marriage which could be declared invalid, usually because there has been no consummation.</p> <p>Such a declaration is regarded as an annulment which means that the marriage is regarded as never having existed. However, for the purposes of tax and benefits, the marriage is regarded as having existed until the date of annulment.</p>
void legacy	Legacy that cannot legally be effected.
void marriage	Marriage which is invalid because at least one of the partners was not able to marry (such as being under age, already married or closely related to the other person).
void period	Period in which something did not happen, such as an unoccupied rented property.
voiding key	Provision in an EPOS system whereby a transaction can be cancelled such as when a check-out operator makes a mistake while checking out goods.
VoIP (or VOIP)	Voice over Internet Protocol.
vol	Volume, as in a published work.
volatility	The degree by which share prices in a particular stock market or sector go up or down. Usually measured by the movement in a particular index.
voldis	Volume discount.
volens	In law, consenting to an activity that carries a risk of injury.

volenti non fit injuria	Latin: that to which a man consents cannot be considered an injury. This is the principle that a person may assent to injury or risk, but not to their death.
Volkswagen	Car manufacturer. The Volkswagen Transporter Kombi was held to be a car, but the Volkswagen Vivaro was held to be a van in the case <i>Coca-Cola Enterprises Ltd and others</i> [2017] TC6082.
Volstead Act	In the USA, the National Prohibition Act that became the 18 th amendment to the US constitution. It prohibited liquor sales between 1920 and 1933 when repealed by the 21 st amendment.
volt (V)	Unit of electromotive force.
volume	Quantity.
Volume Crime	Not a technical term but normally refers to high incidence vehicle crime, burglary and in some areas robbery.
volume discount	Discount which is provided by a supplier to a customer who buys a large quantity.
volume of output	Number or amount of goods produced.
volume variance	Variance between the actual quantity of goods produced and the budgeted quantity.
voluntary	Description of something done either out of free will or without payment.
voluntary annual payment	Voluntary payment made to a former employee. It is similar in nature to a pension and is broadly taxed as one (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 from s633).
voluntary arrangement	In insolvency, an arrangement made by an individual or by the directors of a company to creditors. Typically such an agreement includes payment of part of the debts by a stated date. Provisions for such arrangements are set out in Insolvency Act 1986 from s1.
voluntary conveyance	Conveyance of property other than for valuable consideration (Law of Property Act 1925 s173).
voluntary deduction from pay	A deduction from wages or salary which the employee has authorised. Such deductions are often made to repay a loan, for trade union dues or a subscription to a social club. The authorisation must be made <i>before</i> the event which causes the deductions. In the case <i>Discount Tobacco & Confectionery Ltd v Williamson</i> [1993], the Employment Appeal Tribunal held that an agreement to repay a deficiency of cash was unlawful deduction from wages as the agreement was

made after the deficiency arose. The employer should bring proceedings in the county court.

An involuntary deduction is not permissible under Employment Rights Act 1996. It should be noted that an employer may not deduct a sum from wages just because the employee owes a sum to the employer. An employee may appeal to the employment tribunal against an **unlawful deduction from wages**, even if the sum is owed by the employee to employer.

The authorisation must be genuinely voluntary. In the case *Fairfield Ltd v Skinner EAT [1992]*, the Employment Appeal Tribunal held that it could look behind the ostensible reason to see if the authorisation really was voluntary.

voluntary deregistration

When a business chooses to have its VAT registration cancelled.

A business must have a turnover below the **deregistration threshold** which is different from the registration threshold.

voluntary direct payment

When an employee elects to pay HMRC directly for an underpayment of tax that arose under the PAYE system.

This is an alternative to **coding out** that HMRC may otherwise use.

voluntary disclosure

A way of correcting errors discovered on a previous tax return.

The position of a tax adviser in relation to such disclosure is set out in Professional Conduct in Relation to Taxation from para 7.1.

voluntary hospital

“Means an institution (not being an institution which is carried on for profit or which is maintained wholly or mainly at the expense of the rates or which is vested in an NHS trust or which is vested in the Secretary of State which provides medical or surgical treatment for in-patients” (Voluntary Hospitals (Paying Patients) Act 1936 s1 as amended).

voluntary liquidation

Liquidation started by a resolution of its shareholders.

voluntary mutual

Popular name for a mutual health insurer. Their tax treatment is discussed in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM24685.

voluntary or community body

For the purposes of **business activities** for the **business impact target**, this term is defined in Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 s27(5).

voluntary redundancy

When an employee agrees to be made redundant from his work, usually on the basis of a generous package.

voluntary registration

When a person or business chooses to register, particularly when a business registers for VAT even though its turnover is below the registration threshold.

voluntary revision of accounts

In company law, procedure whereby the directors of a company may issue accounts to replace those already published (Companies Act 2006 s454).

Such a revision is confined to correcting the accounts to the extent that they did not previously comply with company law or accounting standards.

voluntary scheme	Pension or other benefit scheme in which the members choose the extent and levels of benefits provided. These are normally schemes in which members pay the contributions or premiums. For example, a trade union or other affinity group may offer membership of a scheme providing life assurance cover.
voluntary severance	For public pensions, means "any other loss of office or employment" that is not compulsory severance (Superannuation Act 2010 s3(6)(b)).
voluntary striking off	When a company itself requests that it be removed from the register at Companies House. The procedure is set out in Companies Act 2006 s1003.
voluntary unemployment	<p>The situation that exists when people have chosen not to work because they do not feel that wages at the existing equilibrium are high enough to justify them working. They may prefer instead to receive benefits.</p> <p>Classical economists argued that any unemployment remaining in the long-term would be voluntary as the economy would automatically tend towards full-employment. The level of voluntary unemployment is shown in the diagram below: The actual supply represents those people who are willing to work at the existing wage, whereas the potential is all those of working age who are available to work. The distance shown by the arrow between the two represents voluntary unemployment - those who have chosen not to work at the equilibrium wage.</p>
voluntary winding-up	Winding-up of a company started by its shareholders.
voluntary worker	<p>Someone who works for no payment, usually for a church, charity or non-profit-making body.</p> <p>There are some special provisions which relate to voluntary workers. They are not covered by Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, which only applies to employees.</p> <p>They do not have to be paid the national minimum wage (NMW). They can be paid reimbursement of expenses. It should be noted that a person cannot agree to be paid less than the NMW; they are either paid the NMW or nothing.</p>
voluntas testatoris est ambulatoria usque ad extremum vitae exitum	Latin: the will of a testator is ambulatory (changeable) down to the very end of life.
volunteer	Someone who agrees to work for an organisation without payment. Such a person must be covered by public accident insurance, and may be paid only genuine expenses.
volunteer reserve force	"The Royal Navy Reserve, the Royal Marines Reserve, the Territorial Army or the Royal Auxiliary Air Force" (Armed Forces Act 2006 s374).
VOSA	Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

VOSS	Voluntary Organisation for Social Services.
votary	Person dedicated to service, worship or similar as if by a vow.
vote	<p>Right to influence a decision by expressing a preference and having it considered with others who vote.</p> <p>Company law has many provisions regarding votes by shareholders. Usually the votes cast reflects the number of shares held, so someone with more than 50% of the shares can always outvote other shareholders.</p> <p>Although it is for each organisation to determine its own rules for voting, the usual convention is that change requires a positive vote. So an equal vote means that the motion or proposition is lost.</p>
vote coins	Proposed form of electronic currency under which users could "spend" their coins to express views on government policies.
vote of no confidence	Vote in which a membership expresses itself dissatisfied with its leadership. The consequences depend on the body's rules. Traditionally a leader who loses such a vote resigns, but society rules rarely require this.
voting rights	<p>The right of someone to vote, such as a shareholder in a company.</p> <p>In the context of a takeover bid, the term is defined as "rights to vote at general meetings of the company in question, including rights that arise only in certain circumstances" (Companies Act 2006 s953(9)).</p>
voting rights in an undertaking	"Rights conferred on shareholders in respect of their shares, or, in the case of an undertaking not having a share capital, on members, to vote at general meetings of the undertaking on all, or substantially all, matters. Schedule 10A [of Companies Act 1985] deals with the attribution of voting rights in certain circumstances" (FRS 2 para 17).
voting shares	<p>"Means shares carrying voting rights" (Companies Act 2006 s971(1)).</p> <p>Although this definition refers only to takeovers, it is difficult to see how it could have a different meaning in other contexts.</p>
voucher	<p>Any document which gives details of a financial transaction.</p> <p>There are special VAT provisions for face-value vouchers in Value Added Tax Act 1994 Sch 10A. Broadly, if a voucher can be used for only one purpose (such as operating a telephone), VAT is charged on the sale of the voucher. If the voucher can be used for more than one purpose (such as a store card), VAT is only charged when the card is used, if buying items subject to VAT.</p> <p>A VAT tribunal has ruled that a book of vouchers is not a zero-rated book but a supply of services (<i>Graham Leisure Ltd [1981] VTD 1304</i>).</p>
vox et praetera nibil	Latin: a voice and nothing more. The term means empty words that signify nothing.
voyage	<p>Passage by air or water to a remote place.</p> <p>Traditionally, special rules applied for accounting for voyages. Modern</p>

communication has largely made such rules otiose.

Similarly, the pay of sailors on a voyage, traditionally paid at the end, could have a national insurance basis period equal to the length of the voyage. Modern banking methods mean that such sailors are now more likely to be paid monthly into a bank account like other employees.

voyeurism	Person who derives gratification by secretly watching other people. For statutory sick pay purpose, this is expressly excluded as an illness.
VP	Vice president.
VPN	Virtual private network, in computing.
VPRS	Voluntary Price Regulation Scheme.
VR	(1) Victorian Reports, law reports published from 1870 to 1872, and from 1957. (2) Queen Victoria. (3) Expression used in the formula for unauthorised member payments in Finance Act 2004 s210(9). (4) Variant reading.
VRAM	Video random access memory.
VRML	Virtual Reality Markup Language.
VRN	VAT Registration Number, a unique number allocated to a business on registration for VAT.
VRR	(1) Victim's Right to Review. (2) Vaccine research relief.
VRS	(1) Video rating system. (2) Video relay system.
VRU	Vapour recovery unit.
VS	Veterinary surgeon.
VSO	(1) Voluntary Services Organisation. (2) Voluntary service overseas.
VSS	Victim Support Scheme.
VSU	Voluntary Service Unit.
VT	(1) Value transferred, as used in the formula in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 Sch 4B para 11(2). The same abbreviation is used for the value transferred under residence nil-rate band for inheritance tax in Inheritance Tax Act 1984 s8D as inserted

by Finance (No 2) Act 2015 s9(4).
(2) Vatu, currency of Vanuatu.

Vt Vermont, US state.

VTC Vocational training centre.

VTL Abbreviation used in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s444ABB in relation to the taxation of life assurance companies. It relates to the reserves on a transfer of business.

VTR Video tape recorder.

vulgar fraction Fraction written in the conventional manner of one number above another with a line between, as against a decimal fraction.

vulnerable adult A person under the age of 18, or a person over 18 but who, for physical or mental reasons is unable to look after himself or herself, or their finances.
For inheritance tax, there are special provisions for trusts for such people. These generally exclude the tax from the additional charges for a relevant property tax.
Those who work with vulnerable adults, including volunteers, must be cleared by the **Disclosure and Barring Service**.
Vulnerable adults must still meet their tax and other obligations. If they cannot do this, a trustee may be appointed. This is often a family member, but can be a person appointed by the Court of Protection.

VUV **ISO code** for Vanuatu vanu.

vv (1) Vice versa.
(2) Volumes.

VVs Varicose veins. Common abbreviation for sick notes (HMRC leaflet E14).

VW Volkswagen, a make of car.

W

W **National insurance**
National insurance contribution letter for ocean-going mariners who are over state pension age.

Other meanings

- (1) Series of forms that must be used for excise duty purposes. For example, form W21 is the **quarterly distillery return**.
- (2) Symbol for watts, the unit of power.
- (3) West.
- (4) For **pool betting duty**, the amount paid in winnings.

(5) Abbreviation used to denote a worker, such as in Income Tax Act 2007 s46A.

(6) Watt.

w	Abbreviation that can mean week, weight, width, wife or with.
W1	Part of a tax code , indicating that every payslip should be calculated as if it were week 1 of the tax year. This is a temporary arrangement while a proper tax code is determined.
W5000	Wilshire 5000 , American share index.
WA	(1) West Africa. (2) Western Australia.
WAAC	Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, now WRAC.
WAAF	Women's Auxiliary Air Force, now WRAF.
wad	Roll of bank notes, or similar.
wadiah	Safe-keeping of valuables, as permitted under Islamic financing .
WAES	Workshop on Alternative Energy Strategy.
wafer	Term used for various thin laminas, such as for sealing a package or for mounting computer chips.
wafers	For VAT purposes, wafers are zero-rated as food unless sold with ice cream when they are standard-rated (VAT notice 701/14).
waffle cone	Product similar to an ice cream cone but lined with chocolate. It is not eaten on their own but filled with ice cream or a similar product. The VAT tribunal held that they were not biscuits as they were not intended to be eaten on their own (<i>Marcantonio Foods Ltd. VTD 15486 [1997]</i>).
WAG	Writers and Artists Guild.
wage premium	Economic term for any factor that allows a person to earn a higher wage. Examples include greater education, skill, reputation, strength etc.
wager	Promise to pay money on the outcome of an uncertain event. A wager cannot be the basis of a legal contract under English law.
wages	This term includes wages and salaries and similar payments whatever they are called. It also includes bonuses, commissions, holiday pay, statutory sick pay, statutory maternity pay, statutory paternity pay, statutory adoption pay, guarantee payments, payments made under various employment laws, and

payments made under an order for reinstatement or re-engagement (Employment Rights Act 1996 s27(2)).

wages cost

Cost of paying employees. This figure comprises the gross pay of employees plus such direct costs as employers' national insurance, employer's contributions to occupational pension scheme and the cost of providing benefits in kind. This cost is often the largest expense in an organisation.

wages councils

Bodies originally established by Trade Boards Act 1909 to ensure that workers were not exploited by low wages. Their scope was considerably extended in 1945. Their powers were restricted in 1986 before being abolished in 1993. Since 1999, the issue of low pay has been addressed by the **national minimum wage**.

wage effect

Economic term for the consequences in wages of a change in policy, such as demands for higher wages when income tax rises.

wages fund theory

In economics, a theory that a country only has a finite amount of money to pay wages, so the function of government is to determine an equitable apportionment. This theory has long been discredited as it ignores the ability of a worker to create wealth.

wages payable

Account for the amount payable in wages and salaries. It is a credit balance which is usually debited to zero when payment is made.

wages policy

Policy an organisation adopts with regard to wages and salaries for its employees.

waif

Old term for an abandoned child.

waifs

Stolen goods thrown away by a fleeing thief.

wainage

Old term for the people and tools necessary for land cultivation.

WAIS

Wide area information server, computing term.

Waitangi Day

National day of New Zealand, celebrated on 6 February.

wait and see

Term used for the new rules of perpetuities introduced in 1964.

Under the previous common law rules, a gift in a will to "the first of my children to become a doctor" is void at common law (unless any child was already a doctor at the time of the testator's death). The common law period was the lifetime of the settlor plus 21 years. It is possible that a child would become a doctor after that period, or indeed that no child would become a doctor. The 80-year rule introduced in 1964 allowed the opportunity to see if property could vest within the stated period.

waiter

Person who attends to customers in a restaurant. Originally the term also meant a watchman or Customs officer, whose duties included waiting for something to happen.

All tips paid to a waiter (or waitress) are subject to income tax. A tip is only subject to class 1 national insurance if paid via an employer or troncmaster, such as when the tip is added to a card payment or put in a jar by the till. There is no national insurance if the tip is given directly to the waiter.

waiting day (WD)	<p>Day at the start of a period for which a social security benefit is not payable.</p> <p>There are three waiting days for statutory sick pay and for employment support allowance. This means that the benefit is payable from the fourth day.</p> <p>There are usually seven waiting days for universal credit.</p>
waiting list fee	<p>Fee payable to an organisation to go on a waiting list for membership.</p> <p>For VAT, such a payment is exempt if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• it is deducted from the first subscription or joining fee,• the subscription is exempt from VAT, or• it is refunded if the candidate is declined membership. <p>Otherwise the fee is regarded as part of the organisation's income.</p>
waiting period	<p>(1) In connection with civil partnerships, means at least 15 days from when a notice of proposed partnership is issued to when it may be registered (Civil Partnership Act 2004 s11).</p> <p>(2) In connection with income protection insurance, means the length of time from losing one's income to when the policy starts payments. The longer the period, the lower the premium. Most policies have a waiting period of at least four weeks. The period can be as long as 12 months.</p>
Waitrose effect	<p>Observable phenomenon that a house price increases if near to a supermarket.</p>
waive	<p>Unilaterally abandon a right or benefit.</p>
waiver	<p>A unilateral abandonment of a right.</p> <p>In insurance, it usually means an agreement by an insurer to eliminate a specified pre-existing physical condition or specified hazard.</p>
waiver clause	<p>In marine insurance, a clause in the policy that measures taken by the insurers or underwriters to save, protect or recover the insured items is not a waiver or abandonment of rights, and does not prejudice the rights or interests of any party.</p>
waiver of debt	<p>Excusing a debt for reasons other than the financial position of the debtor.</p> <p>Such a waiver is not a bad debt and usually is not tax-deductible. The matter is discussed in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM 42710.</p>
waiver of dividends	<p>Such a waiver in the 12 months before a dividend is declared means that the dividend is not regarded as a transfer of value for inheritance tax purposes (Inheritance Tax Act 1984 s15).</p>

waiver of premium	A provision that sets certain conditions under which an insurance policy will be kept in full force by the company without the payment of premiums.
waiver of remuneration	<p>When a director or employee decides not to accept payment due to him or her for employment work done.</p> <p>Amounts so waived are not included in the value of a person's estate for inheritance tax purposes (Inheritance Tax Act 1984 s14).</p>
wake	Party that commemorates the life of one who has died.
wakf	Alternative spelling of waqf .
wakiki	Shells that were used as currency in South Pacific islands.
Wal	Abbreviation: Walloon.
Wales	The principality that adjoins England to form England and Wales or Britain.
walk	Old excise term for a brewery or group of breweries. Four excise officers known as gaugers were assigned to a walk. Each officer worked for six hours, providing 24-hour inspection for every brewery.
walking possession	<p>When a bailiff "seizes" goods but allows a person to retain use of them until the debt is paid.</p> <p>When such goods relate to security for VAT, a breach of a walking possession agreement is a specific offence under Value Added Tax 1994 s68.</p>
walking possession agreement	<p>For VAT, "means an agreement under which, in consideration of the property distrained upon being allowed to remain in the custody of the person in default and of the delaying of its sale, the person in default —</p> <p>(a) acknowledges that the property specified in the agreement is under distraint and held in walking possession, and</p> <p>(b) undertakes that, except with the consent of the Commissioners and subject to such conditions as they may impose, he will not remove or allow the removal of any of the specified property from the premises named in the agreement"</p> <p>(Value Added Tax 1994 s68(2)).</p>
Wallace, Ian	Scottish Liberal Democrat politician (1954-) who acted as First Minister of Scotland for brief periods in 2001 and 2002.
wallah	Indian term taken into English for a person employed without specified duties.
wall chart	This item is not regarded as a map or chart for VAT purposes, and is therefore not zero-rated under Value Added Tax Act 1994 Sch 8 Group 3. Further details are given in VAT notice 701/10.
walled garden	Marketing term for area of services on interactive advertisements transmitted on digital television. This area requires the viewer to take some action, such

as pressing the red button on the remote control.

wallet	Small folding case for holding money and other documents. By extension it also means an electronic place where cryptocurrency may be stored.
wall panelling	For tax, the case <i>JD Wetherspoon plc v HMRC [2008] SpC 657</i> held that wall panelling in a pub was not plant. This issue was debated at length, implying that similar items could be held to be plant. The deciding factor in this case was that the panelling was not exceptional.
Wall Street	New York Stock Exchange, from the name of the road in Manhattan where it is located.
wampum	Beads made from shells that were used as money by native Americans.
WAN	Wide Area Network.
walls	Not surprisingly, these are regarded as part of a building (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s21(3) List A).
walrus	The import of the fur or other products of such animals is generally prohibited from 20 August 2010.
WAN	Wide area network, computing term.
W and M	William and Mary.
want	In relation to welfare, a state of being in need.
wantad	American term for a classified advertisement where someone wants something.
wantage	American term for a deficiency.
wanworth	Scottish term for a very low price or bargain.
WAP	Wireless application protocol.
waqf	An inalienable religious endowment under Sharia law. [It is also spelled wakf.]
war	State of hostilities between two nations. Such a state has many legal consequences.
war chest	Funds set aside to pay for a war. By extension, it means funds set aside for a political campaign or similar activity.
war damage	A bailor or bailee of goods is relieved of responsibilities to insure, repair, replace or restore goods that suffer war damage (Liability of War Damage (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1939 s1).

Duty is refundable on goods destroyed by war damage (ibid s5).

war disablement pension	For pension credit, this is defined in State Pension Credit Act 2002 s17(1).
ward of court	Minor who is under the control of a court.
ware	Articles of merchandise.
warehouse	<p>A place approved by HM Customs and Excise for the storage of goods without the payment of certain duties or taxes which would normally be due on those goods. The main types of warehouse are Customs Warehouses; Excise Warehouses; and Customs and Excise Warehouses.</p> <p>The application for VAT is given in Value Added Tax Act 1994 s18.</p>
warehouse capacity	Amount of space available in a warehouse .
warehouse club	Establishment selling discounted goods to members.
warehoused goods	Goods placed under the customs warehousing arrangements.
warehouse receipt	Document signed by a warehousekeeper certifying the ownership of goods in the warehouse.
warehouse system	System whereby importers of goods are allowed to store them in a warehouse and not pay duties until ready to release the goods to market.
warehouse vat	Spirits receiver that has been approved by HMRC as a place where spirits may be stored as well as manufactured. If a vat is not so approved, all spirits must be removed before a fresh manufacture starts.
warehousing fulfilment	Service of providing warehouse and despatch services, as offered by many businesses including Royal Mail.
warehousing system	<p>Arrangement agreed with HMRC or Customs which allows goods to be stored in a warehouse before duty or VAT is paid.</p> <p>The VAT provisions are given in Value Added Tax Act 1994 s18.</p>
war injury	Payment may be made under Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act 1939 s1.
Warks	Warwickshire.
war loan	Government gilt issued to provide funds to pay for a war.
warning	In employment law, a statement from an employer to an employee about the latter's conduct. It may be verbal or written. Although there is no legal requirement to issue any warnings, doing so when justified can help avoid a charge of wrongful or unfair dismissal should the employee subsequently be sacked. ACAS recommends that a verbal warning and a written warning should be given before dismissal because of incompetence.

In 19th century, the term was used to mean a notice period.

warning pack	Details about pension schemes provided to scheme members at the ages of 50, 55 and 60. The idea is to prevent members making unwise decisions about their pensions. Details of the packs were announced by the Financial Conduct Authority in June 2018.
warning period	<p>In relation to serial tax avoidance regulations, a period of five years from when a taxpayer's avoidance scheme has been defeated.</p> <p>During this period, the taxpayer must submit an annual information report stating what, if any, avoidance arrangements have been used.</p> <p>If a further avoidance scheme is defeated in the warning period, the taxpayer is liable to a tax-gear penalty of 20% for the first defeat, 40% for the second, and 60% for a third or subsequent defeat.</p> <p>A taxpayer who has had three defeats in the period may be publicly named and denied some tax reliefs.</p>
War Office	Department of the civil service which became the Ministry of Defence in 1964.
war orphan	Child who is "suffering from neglect or want of proper care" as a result of the death of a parent from 3 September 1939. The Minister of Pensions (now Department of Work and Pensions) has a duty to provide for such a child until he or she reaches the age of 21. These provisions are contained in War Orphans Act 1942 which appears to be unrepealed.
war pension	State pension paid to the dependants of someone killed or injured on military service.
warrandice	Old Scottish term for a guarantee clause in a deed.
warrant	<p>Security</p> <p>A security issued by a company, allowing you the right to acquire ordinary shares.</p> <p>"An instrument that requires the issuer to issue shares (whether contingently or not) and contains no obligation for the issuer to transfer economic benefits" (FRS 4 para 17).</p> <p>Derivatives</p> <p>The term "means an instrument which entitles the holder to subscribe for —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) shares in a company, or(b) assets representing a loan relationship of a company." <p>(Corporation Tax Act 2009 s710).</p> <p>Court</p> <p>Order issued by a court requiring or allowing something.</p>
warrant of attachment	Warrant which allows goods to be seized.

warrant to cite	In Scotland, an order for a debtor to attend court in sequestration proceedings.
warrantee	Person to whom a warranty is given.
warrantise	Give a warranty .
warrantor	Person who provides a warranty .
warranty	Guarantee or promise. In contract law, a breach of warranty does not usually allow the other party to claim specific performance nor to void the contract, but usually does allow the party to claim damages.
warren	In law, the right to kill rabbits and hares on a piece of land.
war savings certificates	Certificates issued by the government before 1972 to fund a war and which may continue to be held on the same conditions (National Debt Act 1972 s9).
Warsaw Convention	Set of rules established in Warsaw in 1929 establishing the liability of an airline or carrier to passengers, cargo and baggage in international accidents.
Warsaw Pact	Alliance of Eastern European countries with the Soviet Union. It was formed in 1955 and disbanded in 1991.
war service	Service in the armed forces during war. Under various laws passed at the time, such service usually counts as part of a person's employment for the purposes of building up a superannuation or pension entitlement. Certain pensions for war service are exempt from income tax (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s639).
war widow	Woman whose husband was killed in a war.
war widow's or widower's pension	For pension credit, this is defined in State Pension Credit Act 2002 s17(1). HMRC provides guidance on the taxation of such pensions in helpsheet HS344.
Wash	Washington, US state.
wash	Finance In finance, process of making money look different from what it was. This is now commonly known as laundering. Tax Process of utilising a loss or other relief against a gain or profit that would otherwise be taxable. Spirits duty For spirits duty, "wort in which fermentation has begun. After fermentation, the wash will form the raw material for the distillation process" (Customs

notice 39).

wash back

In brewing, "a vessel in which wort is collected and fermented into wash" (Customs notice 39).

washbasin

This is listed in Capital Allowances Act 2001 s23 List C as an item that is not affected by the provisions of s21 (buildings) or s22 (structures). This means that its eligibility for capital allowance depends on the nature and purpose of the item.

wash charger

In brewing, "a vessel in which wash is collected from the wash back for removal to the still" (Customs notice 39).

washing machine

This is listed in Capital Allowances Act 2001 s23 List C as an item that is not affected by the provisions of s21 (buildings) or s22 (structures). This means that its eligibility for capital allowance depends on the nature and purpose of the item.

wash-up

Review of a meeting after it has finished.

The term is also used for the period just before a General Election when the outgoing government agrees with other parties what legislation may be enacted before prorogation of Parliament. This often includes a short Finance Act to allow for continued collection of income tax and some other uncontroversial matters. The new government, even if of the same party, typically enacts a Finance (No 2) Act after the election.

WASP

White Anglo-Saxon protestant.

waste

In law, neglected land or deliberate damage to land and property.

In management accounting, excess materials left over from production processes and which are regarded as having no value or only scrap value.

waste-book

Day book or journal in which financial transactions are recorded, prior to their being entered in a real prime book of account.

wasted costs

In litigation before a tribunal, "means any costs incurred by a party —

(a) as a result of any improper, unreasonable or negligent act or omission on the part of any legal or other representative or any employee of such a representative, or

(b) which, in the light of any such act or omission occurring after they were incurred, the relevant Tribunal considers it reasonable to expect that party to pay"

(Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 s29(5)).

waste dealing

Under the VAT flat rate scheme, the appropriate percentage is:

From	Percentage
4 January 2011	10.5%
1 January 2010	9.5%

1 December 2008	8.5%
1 January 2004	9.5%

waste disposal	Corporation tax provisions are given in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s142; income tax provisions in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 from s165.
waste disposal site	In relation to tax allowance for site preparation, a full definition appears in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s167(1).
waste disposal system	Part of a building (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s21(3) List A).
wasted relief	Term for unused relief in the context of a controlled foreign company. The full definition is given in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 Sch 26 para 4(4).
wasting asset	<p>Term for an asset which becomes exhausted in the course of use, such as a mine, quarry or cemetery. In accounting terms, it is treated the same as a fixed asset.</p> <p>For capital gains tax, it has the most specific meaning of an asset expected to be wholly consumed within 50 years (Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s44). This includes all vehicles, machines and animals. Such an asset is exempt from the tax.</p>
watching brief	In law, instruction to counsel to observe a case. By extension, the term is used in any situation where someone is directed to observe actions without having a formal supervisory role.
water	<p>For VAT, water is zero-rated when supplied to domestic premises under Value Added Tax Act 1994 Sch 8 Group 2. It is standard-rated to business premises from 1 July 1990.</p> <p>The zero-rating extends to supplies of ice, steam, metered water, and abstraction of non-potable water. Zero-rating does <i>not</i> extend to distilled or deionised water, dry ice, mineral and table water and infrastructure charges under Water Act 1989.</p> <p>Bottled water for drinking is standard-rated. It is specifically excepted from the scope of zero-rating for food by Value Added Tax 1994 Sch 8 Group 1 Note 3.</p>
water bailiff	Customs officer who inspects vessels as they reach or leave port.
watercourse	Easement that allows for a flow of water over someone else's land.
Watergate	US political scandal of 1972 when it was discovered that supporters of President Nixon had attempted to break into the Watergate Hotel in Washington DC to obtain files on the Democrats' campaign. The term referred to the break-in and subsequent cover-up that led to Nixon's resignation. This term prompted subsequent scandals to have -gate appended to their name.

water gavel	Rent paid for water or fishing rights.
Waterguard	Old name for Coastguard service. It was formed in 1809 to prevent smuggling, and subsequently took on life-saving duties.
water heater	For capital allowances, this may qualify as a feature integral to a building (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s33A).
water ice	This is standard-rated for VAT. It is excluded from the scope of zero-rated food by Value Added Tax 1994 Sch 8 Group 1 Excepted Item 1.
Waterloo	Final defeat, in allusion to Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo in 1815.
Waterloo decision	Rule that "where a parent company allows the employees of its subsidiaries to participate in its share schemes, the arm's length principle requires that the subsidiaries make a contribution to the parent" (Inspector's Manual at BIM 44235). The name comes from the case <i>Waterloo plc v CIT</i> . SpC301.
watermark	Image that can be seen on paper when held to the light. Modern Bank of England notes use a watermark as a security feature. A picture of the Queen can be seen.
water meter	For VAT, costs relating to these meters are not within the scope of the zero-rating for water (VAT notice 701/16). They may be zero-rated when installed as part of a zero-rated construction .
water rates	Charge for water supply that is based on the rateable value of the property.
water supply licence	Licence issued under Water Industry Act 1991 s17A as inserted by Water Act 2014 s1(1).
water system	For capital allowance purposes, this is treated as an integral feature , which means that it is included in the special rate pool and is subject to capital allowance at 8% on the writing down basis, and not the usual 18% for plant and machinery (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s33A).
watertight	Colloquialism describing a case or position that is considered to be beyond challenge.
waterworks	Profits from this, when run as a trade are subject to income tax (Income Tax (Trading And Other Income) Act 2005s12) or corporation tax (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s39).
watt (W)	Unit of power.
watt-hour	Use of one watt of power for one hour.

wattle	Tax once charged in Orkney and Shetland Isles in lieu of an obligation to entertain the foud (magistrate) on his annual journey.
WAV	In computing, a standard audio file format.
waveson	Floating wreckage or flotsam.
way-going crop	Crop that is sown during one tenancy but cannot be harvested until after the tenancy has expired. The first tenant often has the rights to the crop.
wayleave	<p>Right of way over someone else's land for the purpose of moving minerals, running electrical cables or water pipes, or similar. A statutory definition is given in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s45(5).</p> <p>The extent to which income from a wayleave may be taxed as a trade is set out in Income Tax (Trading And Other Income) Act 2005 s22 and Corporation Tax Act 2009 s45.</p> <p>The charge to tax on income received is set out in Corporation Tax Act 2009 from s277 and Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 from s344.</p>
WB	World Bank.
Wb	Weber, unit of magnetic flux.
WBA	(1) Widow's bereavement allowance. (2) World Boxing Association.
WBS	Work breakdown structure.
WC	Water closet, toilet.
wc	Without charge.
WCA	Work capability assessment.
WCC	World Council of Churches.
W/Cdr	Wing-Commander.
WCO	World Customs Organization, a multilateral body located in Brussels through which participating countries seek to simplify and rationalize customs procedures.
WCS	World Conservation Strategy.
WD	(1) Waiting day. (2) War Department. (3) Welfare Department. (4) Works Department. (5) Volume of waste materials disposed on a site before 6 April 1989, used in

the formula in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s166(3).

WDA	(1) Writing down allowance. (2) Welsh Development Agency.
WDIC	Wholesale dealer import certificate, for veterinary medicines.
WDM	(1) Worldwide Dispatch Manager , a postal service. (2) World Development Movement.
WDV	Written down value.
WE	(1) War Establishment. (2) Women's Equality Party.
WEA	Workers Educational Association.
WEAL	Women's Equality Action League, US body.
wealth	Money and assets which represent money. Wealth is the value of assets plus the capitalisation of productivity.
wealth tax	Tax imposed on how much a person is worth. The UK has no such tax.
weaponise	In politics, the process of making something a political issue.
weapons	Customs are likely to seize any offensive weapons carried by a traveller to the UK.
wear and tear	Cost of using a fixed asset, recognising that fixed assets such as machinery suffer minuscule amounts of wearing out every time they are used. This has a cumulative effect until the machinery is unusable. In financial accounting this is reflected in depreciation.
wear and tear allowance	Allowance equal to 10% of rents received that could be claimed on most lettings of domestic property (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s35(2)). Similar provisions are given in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s308A. This allowance is abolished from 6 April 2016, from when a landlord may deduct the actual costs.
wearing different hats	Term used where one person performs different functions in a transaction or arrangement, such as when a settler is also a beneficiary in a trust. Such arrangements are legal, except that if the boundaries are not properly observed and there is no good reason for the different hats, it is possible that the trust will be regarded as a sham.
weasel words	Words of convenient ambiguity.
Weatherbys	English company established in 1770 and based in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. It provides the central administration for the horse racing

industry, maintains the Thoroughbred breed register and acts as the bank to the British Horseracing Authority.

A person or group that owns at least 50% of a horse registered with Weatherbys may use the special racehorse owners' scheme for VAT. Details are given in VAT Notice 700/67.

Web	Usually means the worldwide web where websites are hosted and may be accessed.
WebCheck	On-line facility to check the register of companies at Companies House. It may be accessed free at http://wck2.companieshouse.gov.uk/86fa74c2ba751e6ea1f7e87159aa4602/wcframe?name=accessCompanyInfo .
web crawler	Computer program that browses the worldwide web in a methodical and orderly manner.
Weber, Max	German business adviser (1864-1920) who developed the concept of permanence of organisations and of bureaucracy.
weber	Unit of magnetic flux.
webinar	<p>Seminar conducted on a website. Those on tax may be conducted by HMRC or a commercial company.</p> <p>HMRC started running webinars in February 2012. It runs two types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• live webinars at predetermined times which allow for on-line questions and answers, and• pre-recorded webinars that can be watched at any time. <p>The webinars are free but taxpayers must register in advance. Details are given at www.hmrc.gov.uk/press/online-advice.htm.</p>
website	<p>Place where information can be accessed on the Internet.</p> <p>Websites that are particularly useful for tax practitioners include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the website for HMRC. It provides all tax notices and other publications, most tax forms, press releases, inspectors' manuals and much other tax information. <p>The database is comprehensive but its search engine is not user-friendly. It is often better to use a better engine, such as Google, and then select the hmrc references from those listed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ the Statute Law database. This gives Acts of Parliament and other legislation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• all legislation passed from 1988,• most primary legislation (not SIs) from 1287 to 1988, though sometimes only the original form is published. Laws repealed before 1991 are generally not included. <p>New laws are put on the website within 24 hours of becoming law.</p> <p>Some laws on tax, social security and pensions are only available in their original form, and not as amended.</p> <p>The website gives a choice of whether to view the original or amended</p>

versions. It has full annotations of when changes were made, and of any changes yet to be reflected in the text.

Many supporting documents are also included. These include explanatory notes and tables of derivations.

- www.bailii.org.uk the website of British and Irish Legal Information Institute. This gives full case reports (not just of tax cases) of all decisions made by the High Court from 2002, and from the Court of Appeal and House of Lords (now Supreme Court) from 2001. It also gives details of many tribunal decisions.

- <http://www.tribunals.gov.uk/Tax/> the website of the First Tier tax tribunals. This gives all decisions of the tribunals since their formation in April 2009, and details of predecessor bodies from April 2003. This includes Special Commissioners' decisions under the reference **SPC**.

- <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/> the website of HM Treasury. It includes Budget and pre-Budget Reports, and details on economic policy.

- <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/> the website of the Department of Work and Pensions, which gives details of social security and pensions

- <http://www.ifs.org.uk/> the website of the Institute of Fiscal Studies gives independent commentary on tax and economic issues, particularly regarding policy.

website invoice

Invoice which is produced on a website rather than as a separate document. This is legal for all purposes, including tax and VAT, provided there is adequate security and recording.

WEC

World Employment Conference.

WED

World Environment Day.

wedding

Ceremonial occasion when two people are married.

Although a couple may be married only once (unless they remarry after divorce), they may have more than one wedding ceremony.

wedding albums

The VAT tribunal has ruled that an album of wedding photographs is not a zero-rated book (*D A Draper [1980] VTD 1107*).

wedding gift

Tax exemption

A wedding gift made by an employer to an employee is tax-free. According to inspectors' manual at EIM00600, such a gift does not arise from the employment and therefore is not taxable as employment income.

Inheritance tax

A gift made in respect of a **marriage** is exempt from inheritance tax up to a limit. This is £5,000 per parent; £2,500 from a remoter ancestor; and £1,000 from anyone else. These figures are unchanged from 1986.

Customs

For Customs, wedding presents are generally not subject to duty when imported into the UK following a wedding, as explained in Customs notice 3.

Such goods may arrive in the UK up to two months before or four months after the wedding. If security is charged on such goods, it is refunded on proof of marriage.

wedding loan

Personal loan specifically designed to pay for a wedding. Typically the loan is for between one and five years.

wedge

Slang for an amount of money.

Wedgwood

Fine pottery made by Josiah Wedgwood (1730-95) and his successors.

wedlock

State of being married.

The term is particularly used for children born when their parents were unmarried, or "born out of wedlock". All legal restrictions on such children have now been removed, except that such a child may not inherit a parent's title.

week

Period of seven days. For purposes of **statutory sick pay** and **statutory maternity pay**, it is seven days starting on a Sunday.

week 53

In the PAYE system, the odd days at the end of the tax year after week 52.

As 52 weeks of 7 days gives 364 days, but a year always has 365 or 366 days, a payday falling on 5 April or (on 4 April in a leap year) is regarded as being in week 53, for which there are special PAYE provisions.

weekly PAYE threshold

Amount a weekly paid worker may earn before becoming liable to have income tax deducted under the PAYE scheme (PAYE Regulations SI 2003 No 2682 reg 9(7)).

week's pay

Figure set by the government each April (previously 1 February) each year used to calculate redundancy pay. It is also used to determine how much of a person's wages rank as a **preferential debt** if the employer becomes insolvent.

WEEP

Work Experience on Employer's Premises.

wef

With effect from.

weighbridge

Machine for weighing loaded vehicles.

weighed in the balance and found wanting

Tested and found to be faulty.

The expression comes from the interpretation of Belshazzar's vision as recorded in Daniel 5:27 in the Bible.

weighted age

Another term for **adjusted age**. This is broadly a person's actual age with extra years added (or sometimes subtracted) to reflect their health. This is used to calculate rates for life assurance. For inheritance tax, this can be relevant in valuing a **discounted gift scheme**.

weighted moving average (WMA)

Moving average that gives weight to more recent data.

For example, suppose a company records share prices of 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 for the last seven months. The average (arithmetic mean) is these seven numbers added together and divided by 7, which gives 8.86.

If the numbers are given a weighting of 1, 2 etc to 7, each number is multiplied by the weighting to give 3, 12, 24, 36, 55, 72 and 91. These seven numbers are added and divided by 28 (the sum of the numbers 1 to 7) to give 10.46, reflecting the higher values achieved recently.

weighting

(1) When a figure is multiplied by a factor to reflect its importance. Social Fund budgeting loans use weighting.

(2) In payroll, additional sum paid for a specific reason, such as for the additional cost of living in London.

weir

For capital allowances, this is specifically excluded from the scope of plant and machinery (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s22(1) List B).

welcome page

Home page on a website, including HMRC's.

welfare

Provision of finance and support to someone in need.

welfare advice

Service that may be reduced-rated for VAT under Value Added Tax Act 1994 Sch 7A Group 9, as explained in VAT leaflet 701/2. Note that is *advice* that is reduced-rated; **welfare services** may be zero-rated.

Reduced-rated welfare advice is "advice or information that directly relates to the:

- care or protection of children or young people or
- physical or mental welfare of elderly, sick, **distressed** or disabled people" (VAT notice 701/2).

Advice that relates to a *specific* person (of any age) is usually zero-rated as **welfare services**.

welfare payments

In relation to Scotland, this term is given a specific meaning in Scotland Act 1998 s66(1ZA) as inserted by Scotland Act 2016 s20(6).

welfare services

Value added tax

Such services may be exempt from VAT under Value Added Tax Act 1994 Sch 7 Group 9. Other services may be reduced-rated under Sch 7A Group 9. VAT leaflet 701/2 provides more details.

Further information in this dictionary is provided in the entries for:

- **care, treatment or instruction**
- **children's services**
- **routine domestic tasks**
- **significant pain or discomfort**
- **spiritual welfare**
- **welfare advice**

Social security administration

"Includes services which provide accommodation, support, assistance, advice

or counselling to individuals with particular needs" (Welfare Reform Act 2012 s131(12)).

The term goes on to define assistance.

Welfare State

Term applied to the UK from 1942 with regards to its commitment to care for citizens throughout their lives in the forms of benefits, free services and other forms of assistance. Formal provision of state welfare dates back to 16th century.

welfare work

Efforts to improve living conditions for a category of workers.

welfarism

View that management should be concerned for the welfare of its employees and not just see them as units of production.

well-being

"In relation to an individual, means that individual's well-being so far as relating to any of the following —

- (a) personal dignity (including treatment of the individual with respect)
- (b) physical and mental health and emotional well-being
- (c) protection from abuse and neglect
- (d) control by the individual over day-to-day life (including over care and support, or support, provided to the individual and the way in which it is provided)
- (e) participation in work, education, training or recreation
- (f) social and economic well-being
- (g) domestic, family and personal relationships
- (h) suitability of living accommodation
- (i) the individual's contribution to society"

(Care Act 2014 s1(2)).

Local authorities have a duty to promote individuals' well-being under s1(1).

Welsh

Language spoken by some people in Wales. Many official documents may be submitted in Welsh, though often an English transaction is required.

Laws in Wales Act 1535 s20 made it illegal to use Welsh in courts and legal documents. That provision was repealed by Welsh Language Act 1993.

welsh

Colloquialism for the practice of on-course bookmakers to run away without paying winnings. By extension, the practice of failing to pay one's debts or discharge an obligation.

[The word's origin is uncertain but is believed not to be related to Wales.]

Welsh additional rate

Additional rate of income tax charged in Wales, as defined in Income Tax Act 2007 s6B(10)

Welsah apprenticeships

"Means —

(a) apprenticeships undertaken under apprenticeship agreements within the meaning given in section 32 that were entered into in connection with recognised Welsh frameworks;

(b) apprenticeships in relation to which alternative Welsh

completion arrangements apply under section 2(5);
(c) apprenticeships undertaken under arrangements made in relation to Wales under —
(i) section 2 of the Employment and Training Act 1973, or
(ii) section 17B of the Jobseekers Act 1995,
that are identified by the person making them as arrangements for the provision of apprenticeships”
(Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 s40B(3) as inserted by Enterprise Act 2016 s26).

Welsh Assembly	Common name for National Assembly for Wales .
Welsh authority	In relation to apprenticeships, “means — (a) the Welsh Ministers, and (b) any body or other persons that is prescribed, or of a prescribed description” (Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 s40B(3) as inserted by Enterprise Act 2016 s26).
Welsh basic rate	Basic rate of income tax charged in Wales, as defined in Income Tax Act 2007 s6B(10).
Welsh body	In relation to exchanges of information in connection with social security administration, “means — (a) a local authority in Wales, (b) a person authorised to exercise any function of such an authority in relation to welfare services , (c) a person providing to a local authority in Wales services relating to welfare services, or (d) a person prescribed or of a description prescribed by the Secretary of State” (Welfare Reform Act 2012 s131(12)).
Welsh Church funds	These funds may have been allocated under a scheme under Welsh Church Act 1914. Where these funds were vested in a county or county borough in Wales before 1 April 1974, is re-vested in the county council which comprises the greater part of the previous county (Local Government Finance Act 1972 s211).
Welsh company	“Company as to which it is stated that its registered office is to be situated in Wales” (Companies Act 2006 s88(1)). Such a company has the right to issue documents and returns in Welsh rather than in English, though it must file an English translation.
Welsh Government	Administration of the Welsh Assembly. Under Wales Act 2014 s4(1) this name replaces the previous Welsh Assembly Government.

Welsh higher rate	Higher rate of income tax charged in Wales, as defined in Income Tax Act 2007 s6B(10).
Welsh land transaction	Acquisition of land in Wales for which the Welsh Assembly may be given taxation powers under Government of Wales Act 2006 s116L as inserted by Wales Act 2014 s15(1).
Welsh list	In relation to non-domestic rates, "means — (a) a local non-domestic rating list that has to be compiled for a billing authority in Wales, or (b) the central non-domestic rating list that has to be compiled for Wales" (Local Government Finance Act 1988 s55(8) as inserted by Enterprise Act 2016 s32).
Welsh mortgage	Mortgage on which no date has been set for redemption.
Welsh NHS trust	Charity run by an NHS body in Wales. Such a body is subject to special audit requirements. A full definition is given in Charities Act 2011 s150(4).
Welsh rate resolution	Resolution passed by the Welsh Assembly on income tax rates to be applied in Wales. The power is contained in Government of Wales Act 2006 from s116D as inserted by Wales Act 2014 s8.
Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA)	Body established to collect taxes devolved to the Welsh Assembly from 2018.
Welsh taxpayer	Person who is liable to pay income tax under a Welsh rate resolution . Such a person is defined in Government of Wales Act 2006 s116E. A Welsh taxpayer is someone with a "close connection" with Wales as further defined in s116G. For PAYE purposes, a Welsh resident has a tax code prefixed C. Wales has the right to vary income tax rates from 6 April 2019.
Wergild	In Anglo-Saxons times, money paid by the family of a slayer to the family of a person slain to avoid a blood feud.
WERS	Whisky Export Refund Scheme.
Westminster	Area of London where Parliament is situated, and therefore sometimes used to mean Parliament.
Westminster doctrine	Doctrine that decisions of the courts are equally binding on the taxpayer and the tax authorities, regardless of how inconvenient this is for the tax authorities. The term comes from the successful tax avoidance case <i>IRC v Duke of Westminster [1936] 19 TC 490</i> .
WET	West European Time.

wet brewery	Brewery where employees are allowed to drink.
wet money	In acting, money paid to extras who cannot work because it is raining.
wet states	Those states in the USA that did not support prohibition of liquor.
wet trade	Term used in the hotel and pub business to indicate the amount of income derived from the sale of drink, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. This distinguishes income from other sources such as from accommodation, food, cigarettes and amusement machines.
Wet uitkeringen vervolgingslactoffers 1940 to 1945	Scheme run by Dutch government to provide compensation for victims of Nazi and Japanese aggression in the Netherlands between 1940 and 1945. Such payments are exempt from UK income tax from 6 April 2016.
WEU	Western European Union.
WFA	White Fish Authority.
WFC	World Food Council.
WFH	Wages for housewives.
WFP	(1) Winter fuel payment (2) World Food Programme, a United Nations body.
WFTC	Working families tax credit.
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions.
wg	Abbreviation: wire gauge, water gauge.
whammy	Originally American slang for an evil spell. Since 1990, the term has come to mean a financial blow, particularly in expressions such as double whammy and triple whammy.
wharf	Place by a river or similar to land goods transported by water. For capital allowances, this is specifically excluded from the scope of plant and machinery (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s22(1) List B). For customs duties, goods transported by sea must be landed at a wharf approved under Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 s20.
wharfinger	Owner of a wharf .
what I did on my holidays	Colloquial term for a style of instructions from a client that resembles a school essay. It usually reports matters in tedious chronological detail, much of which is not relevant. Advisers are often better advised to look at the paperwork and

ask clients questions.

what if

Facility, such as on a spreadsheet or computer programme, to see the consequences of a different input figure.

Wheat Report

Report produced in USA in 1972 on the principles and methods for setting American accounting standards. It led to the formation of **FASB**.

wheel of fortune

This game is specifically listed in Betting and Gaming Duties Act 1981 s13(3) as coming within the scope of **gaming licence duty**.

wheeze

Colloquialism for a way of complying with the letter of the law while not complying with its spirit. Examples include finding ways of accounting for expenditure without identifying it as such.

The term comes from the hissing sound when someone breathes with difficulty. By extension, the term came to mean a joke that elicited such a response in a music hall.

whereabouts unknown

Description of someone whose current address is not known.

There is a specific tax provision for paying agents of savings funds for such people. If the agent made payment, details must be reported but with "whereabouts unknown" as the payee's address. If no payment was made, there is nothing to report. If arrears of payment when the address is subsequently discovered, the payment of all arrears is reported for the period of payment.

wherewithal

Colloquialism for money, particularly in the sense of the ability to sustain oneself.

wherry

Light shallow boat, particularly a barge, that is sharp at both ends for speed.

Whigs

Political party of government in 17th century.

Whimster

Leading tax case. It established that the correct method for determining taxable trading profits is by bringing into account the opening and closing stock at lower of net cost and market value (the latter has now been replaced by net realisable value). The full case name is *Whimster and Co v CIR [1925] 12TC813*. It is usually now seen in combination with **Threlfall v Jones**. The cases are discussed in Inspectors' Manual at BIM33110.

whip

Politician entrusted with maintaining discipline within his or her party, and with other administrative duties.

whip-round

Colloquialism for a spontaneous collection of money, usually for a charitable or benevolent purpose.

whiskey

Traditional spelling for **whisky** made in Ireland. It is also sometimes used in USA and elsewhere.

whisky	<p>Alcoholic drink classified as a spirit for purposes of alcoholic liquor duty. A fuller description is given in Customs notice 39.</p> <p>The law on duty on spirits is given in Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979 ss5-35 and Spirits Regulations Si 1991 No 2563.</p> <p>Traditionally, Irish whiskey is spelled with an E.</p> <p>Whisky has been subject to liquor duty since 1644. In 1823, the law was reformed to introduce an annual licence as a means of stamping out illegal distilleries.</p>
Whisky Export Refund Scheme	<p>A system of refunds on EC cereals used in the manufacture of whisky for export outside the EU. Details are given in Customs notice 39.</p>
whisky money	<p>Term used in 1889 for an additional tax imposed on whisky to fund technical colleges to train workers in craft subjects.</p>
whisper	<p>In telephony, an arrangement whereby a telephone number can be allocated to a business without a dedicated line. A person who calls that number is directed to another line, and the call is preceded by a "whisper" saying what company is being called.</p>
white	<p>Description of a person whose skin is not regarded as black or coloured.</p>
Whitebox	<p>Tax avoidance scheme that tried to save income tax by exploiting a perceived mismatch in the legislation on accrued interest and that of manufactured interest. The scheme was also known as Project Corbiere.</p> <p>The scheme was rendered ineffective by the decision in <i>Barnes [2011] TC 972</i>.</p>
white-collar crime	<p>Financial crime such as fraud and embezzlement.</p>
white-collar worker	<p>Someone who works in an office, unlike a blue-collar worker who works in a factory.</p>
white diesel	<p>Diesel oil that does not contain any colouring agent, indicating that hydrocarbon oil duty has been paid.</p>
white elephant	<p>Unwanted gift. The term is sometimes used as the name for a stall at a fete where unwanted items may be offered for sale.</p>
white fiver	<p>Common name for Bank of England £5 notes issued before 1957. They were printed on one side of white paper. The notes were withdrawn from circulation on 13 March 1961, though the Bank of England will still exchange them for their face value.</p>
white gold	<p>Gold alloyed with nickel or palladium to give it a silvery appearance.</p>
Whitehall	<p>Area of London where many government offices are based. The term is therefore sometimes used to mean the civil service.</p>

white hat hacker	Computer hacker who is employed by a website provider to identify weaknesses in its security.
white hog	Nickname given to English and Scottish shillings between 1701 and 1825 worth 12 pence each, to distinguish them from the Irish shillings, known as black hogs, worth 13 pence.
White House	Residence of the President of the United States, and therefore sometimes used to mean his office.
white knight	Person or organisation which rescues a company in difficulty, preventing it being taken over by someone considered less desirable.
white list	<p>Term widely used for the lists of investment transactions held by HMRC for two purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to identify activities that may qualify for the Investment Manager Exemption, and• to specify that transactions are not treated as trading transactions for UK tax purposes. <p>These lists are compiled under the provisions of Statutory Instruments SI 2006 No 924, SI 2009 No 3021 and SI 2011 No 2999.</p>
white metal	Alloy of which at least 50% is tin.
White Paper	Government document setting out its policies and proposals in a particular area.
white phosphorus	<p>“Means the substance usually known as white or yellow phosphorus” (Factories Act 1937 s51(2)).</p> <p>This Act bans its use in making matches.</p>
white space	<p>The generally used term for the “other information” box on a tax return.</p> <p>Disclosure of information in the white space can prevent or restrict HMRC’s right of discovery. It can also reduce any penalties.</p>
Whitley Council	Body established from 1917 to determine pay and conditions for a group of workers.
Whit Monday	The day after Whitsun. It was a public holiday until 1967.
Whitsunday	<p>The Christian festival of Pentecost commemorating when the Holy Spirit came to the early church. It is celebrated seven weeks after Easter.</p> <p>Whit Monday was a public holiday until 1967 when it was replaced by Spring Bank Holiday. It was an old Scottish term day (the equivalent of English quarter days until 1991) for which purpose it was defined as 15 May.</p>
WHO	World Health Organisation.
whole government accounting	Attempt made from 2011 to produce an alternative set of accounts for the

	government, produced using the same conventions as are used for limited companies.
whole life insurance	A life insurance policy providing payment on death, whenever this occurs. Premiums may be payable throughout life, or for a shorter period.
whole of life insurance	Another term for whole life insurance .
whole of market adviser	Financial adviser who gives advice on financial products offered by every company in the market.
whole or part of a business	In tax, term used in connection with a disposal that qualifies for entrepreneurs' relief from capital gains tax. This relief was introduced from 1 April 2008. The term was also used for retirement relief that was phased out in 1998.
wholesale	Description of goods which are traded in bulk, such as to retailers. In relation to sale of controlled liquor. the term is given a specific meaning in Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979 s88A(3).
wholesale and retail distribution	Activity which excludes a company from the scope of EIS relief . It is defined for this purpose in Income Tax Act 2007 s193.
wholesale and retail distribution	Term used in Income Tax Act 2007 s304 in relation to an area of activity for which it is not possible to claim the special tax provisions for venture capital trusts.
wholesale banking	Banking services provided by merchant banks and similar bodies, as against retail banking .
wholesale dealer	Person who buys in bulk to sell to retailers.
wholesale, distributive financial or service business	Term used in connection with controlled foreign companies . The term is defined in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 Sch 25 para 11(1).
wholesale price	Price charged for goods bought wholesale , such as the price paid by a shop when buying its stock.
wholesale price index	Index showing inflation in prices charged for wholesale prices.
wholesaler	Person who sells wholesale goods, such as when large quantities are bought from manufacturers and sold to retailers such as shops. The wholesaler is the traditional middle man .
wholly	One of the conditions that must be met for trading expenditure to be tax-deductible. The word relates to the amount of money. The purpose of the

payment is governed by the word **exclusively**.

wholly and exclusively Conditions necessary to claim an expense against trading income (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s54).

wholly and exclusively rule In relation to expenditure on energy-saving materials, "means the rule in section 34 (expenses not wholly and exclusively for trade and unconnected losses), as applied by section 272" (Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s312(8)).

wholly innocent misrepresentation

Where a party makes a statement which proves to be untrue but where the misrepresentation was neither fraudulent nor negligent.

Under Misrepresentation Act 1967 s2(2), the other party has the right to rescind the contract. Although the party has no right to claim damages, the *court* has a discretion to award damages instead of rescission.

wholly or mainly In relation to VAT relief for a professional body, the term means 75% or more (VAT notice 701/5).

wholly owned by a charity which maintains a museum or gallery

For museums and galleries exhibition tax relief, this term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1218ZCB.

wholly-owned subsidiary

Company all of whose shares are owned by another company.

"A company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of another company if it has no members except that other and that other's wholly-owned subsidiaries or persons acting on behalf of that other or its wholly-owned subsidiaries" (Companies Act 2006 s1159(2)).

WI

- (1) Women's Institute.
- (2) West Indies.
- (3) Wisconsin, US state.

wide area network (WAN)

A network technology that covers large geographic distances. Also called long-haul networks, WANs usually operate at slower speeds and have significantly higher delays than networks that operate over shorter distances.

widget

- (1) For beer duty, "device inserted into cans and bottles which recreates the effect of draught beer when it is poured" (Customs notice 226).
- (2) In management accounting, an unspecified manufactured object.

widow

Woman whose husband has died. Her marital status is the same as a single person.

For the purpose of claiming benefits this means that the couple were either legally **married** at the time of the husband's death or their marriage was considered valid under UK law. In Scotland (but not elsewhere in the UK) a person may be considered a wife "by cohabitation with habit and repute" even if there has not been a marriage ceremony provided the reputation began before 4 May 2006 (Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 s3).

widowed mother's allowance Weekly social security benefit payable to a widow whose husband died before 9 April 2001 and who either had custody of a child or was pregnant by her husband when he died.

For subsequent deaths, the allowance is replaced by **widowed parent's allowance** which is also payable to a widower.

widowed parent's allowance Former weekly social security benefit. It cannot be paid at the same time as **bereavement allowance**. In practice a person receives bereavement allowance when their entitlement to widowed parent's allowance ends.

The main conditions for receiving the allowance are:

- the partner died after 8 April 2001;
- the claimant is under pensionable age;
- the partner either had sufficient national insurance record or died from an industrial illness or disease;
- the claimant either has custody of a child or is pregnant by the late husband.

This allowance was subject to an addition for dependent children before 6 April 2003.

If a husband died before 9 April 2001, the widow may claim **widowed mother's allowance** which remains payable.

From 6 April 2017, it is replaced by **bereavement support payment**.

widower Man whose wife has died.

For the purpose of claiming benefits this means that the couple were either legally **married** at the time of the wife's death or their marriage was considered valid under UK law.

In Scotland (but not elsewhere in the UK) a man may be considered a husband "by cohabitation with habit and repute" even if there has not been a marriage ceremony provided the reputation began before 4 May 2006 (Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 s3).

widow's bench Old law term for a share of a man's estate once allowed to a widow over and above her jointure.

widow's bereavement allowance (WBA)

Additional income tax allowance available to widows in the tax year of bereavement and the following tax year.

The allowance was available between 1980 and 2000 when it was abolished. The allowance was not available to widowers.

widow's mite Small amount of money which represents considerable sacrifice by the donor. The term comes from Mark 12:42 in the Bible.

wife Woman to whom a man is married.

The meaning of the term was considered in the case *Nabi v Heaton*. CA [1983] 57 TC 292 which held that "his wife" meant "a person being his wife". This was relevant for a polygamous marriage or where a person had the misfortune of two wives dying in the same tax year.

A wife must be a person where there is evidence of a legal marriage (*Rignell v Andrews. Ch d [1990] 63TC312*).

wife's earned income relief (WEIR)

Tax allowance which a married man could claim against his wife's earned income before 6 April 1990. The allowance belonged to the husband, though there were circumstances when it would be given directly to the wife.

wifi

Means of transmitting data between computers without using wires.

wiggle room

Flexibility to adjust something to the circumstances, such as adjusting a price to what customers will pay.

wiki

Computer software that allows any user to amend contents. The term is Hawaiian for "quick".

Wikipedia

Free on-line encyclopaedia which, in theory, anyone can amend or update. In practice, it is now strictly regulated and user amendments often deleted or not accepted.

wilco

In telephony, abbreviation of "will comply".

wild animal

For the purposes of theatrical productions tax relief, "means an animal of a kind which is not commonly domesticated in the British Islands (and in this definition **animal** has the meaning given by section 1(1) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006)" (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s1217FB(5)).

"**Animal** means a vertebrate other than man" (Animal Welfare Act 2006 s1(1)). A vertebrate "means any animal of the sub-phylum Vertebrata of the Phylum Chordata" (ibid s1(5)).

A performance that uses a wild animal cannot qualify for this tax relief.

wildcat strike

Sudden stoppage of workers taken by the workers themselves and not organised by a trade union.

wild-goose chase

Pursuit that is unlikely to be productive. A wild goose is notoriously difficult to catch.

Wilhelmstrasse

Street in Berlin where the Foreign Office is situated, and therefore is sometimes used to mean that Office.

Wilkinson case

The case *ex parte Wilkinson [2005]* heard by the House of Lords. It held that HMRC had exceeded its authority in many of the **extra-statutory concessions** it had introduced. This led to many of them being replaced by legislation.

will

Definition

Document which states what a person wishes to happen to his or her property on their death. It can also appoint an executor, say who you wish to look after your children under 18, and how you wish your remains to be disposed of.

The term includes a codicil a testament and any other of testamentary

disposition (Wills Act 1837 s1).

Main points

A person who makes a will is said to be the testator, and his or her estate is said to be testate.

The main requirements for a will are that:

- it is in writing
- it is identifiable as a will
- it is signed by the testator
- the testator was aged 18 and had mental capacity
- the signature is signed by two witnesses who are not

beneficiaries. The witnesses' partners must also not be beneficiaries.

Some of these requirements are relaxed for people on military service.

The will must be kept safe and where it can be found, such as with a solicitor, bank, will storage company or the London Probate Service.

Beneficiaries should be told where the will is.

It is advisable for the deceased to record where his or her assets are and for this to be kept up to date and readily findable by the executor. The government recommend that a will is reviewed every five years.

A will can be revoked or amended at any time before death while the testator retains sufficient mental capacity. An amendment may be made by a codicil or by making another will. A later will replaces an earlier will to the extent that they conflict.

If there may be doubt whether a person had sufficient mental capacity to make a will, it is advisable for a doctor either to act as witness or to write a letter to that effect to be kept with the will.

While making a will is a simple process, it is advisable to use a solicitor or professional will writer in drafting it. There are numerous examples of wills prepared that have been held to mean something different from what the testator probably intended.

A will ensures that the testator's wishes are followed. If a person dies intestate, without a will, the estate passes under the laws of intestacy. Wills should be reviewed periodically to ensure that it still reflects the wishes of the testator.

A will can be challenged on the grounds that it does not make adequate provision for a person who was dependent on the deceased, or that the deceased lacked mental capacity.

Marriage revokes a will unless the will was made in contemplation of marriage and identifies the husband or wife. Divorce does not revoke a will but excludes the divorced party as a beneficiary. The deceased may make a further will including a former spouse as a beneficiary.

Inheritance tax is payable on the estate of someone who has died. It is possible to draft a will in ways that minimise that tax liability.

History

The practice of making wills is ancient. Originally a separate **testament** was needed to leave property, but this has not been abolished.

Freedom in to whom property may be left was established in 1725 in

England.

Will Aid	Will-writing charity in which solicitors waive their fee for a designated month and the client is invited to donate to charity instead. The charity started in 1988.
William I	(1) King of England from 1066 to 1087, having obtained the Crown by conquest after defeating Harold II . Known as the Conqueror. (2) King of Scotland from 1165 to 1214.
William II	King of England from 1087 to 1100. Also known as Rufus.
William III	King of Great Britain from 1689 to 1702. Until 1694, he reigned jointly with Queen Mary I.
William IV	King of Great Britain from 1830 to 1837.
willow	Tree widely used for short rotation coppices , for which there are special tax provisions.
Wilshire 5000 (W 5000)	Stock index measuring the most widely traded companies in the USA. The size of the index varies, but is currently around 4,100 companies. It was started in 1974 by Wilshire Associates at 1404.6 represent the companies' market capitalisation of \$1,404.6 billion. Each 1 point variation represented an additional \$1 billion of capitalisation. This has now increased to about \$1.2 billion.
Wilson, Harold	English Labour politician (1916-1995) who was Shadow Chancellor from 14 December 1955 to 2 November 1961. He became Leader of the Labour party on 14 February 1963. He was prime minister from 16 October 1964 to 19 June 1970, and from 4 March 1974 to 5 April 1976.
Wilts	Wiltshire.
WIMAX	Worldwide interoperability for microwave access.
win	For mineral extraction, obtain by winning .
Winchester	Unit of measure of various amounts. It is now generally restricted to a bottle that contains about 2.25 litres.~
Winchester disk	Hard disk in a computer. The term comes from IBM's reference number 3030 and its allusion to the 3030 Winchester rifle.
windfall	Gain, income or other benefit which comes from no effort of the recipient, such as inheriting money. The term comes from harvesting, where it refers to fruit lying on the ground which may be collected without the effort of picking it from the tree.

windfall clause	Term common in an IVA which provides that any windfall, such as inheritance or win, must be given to creditors.
windfall profit	Profit where a significant element comes from factors unrelated to the organisation's efforts.
windfall tax	<p>A one-off tax charged in 1997 on the windfall profits made by the utility companies when they were privatised.</p> <p>The tax was charged at 23% on its value as reflected by post-privatisation profits less the value of the company when floated. Payment was made in two equal instalments on 1 December 1997 and 1 December 1998.</p> <p>The legislation is contained in Finance (No 2) Act 1997 ss1-5 and Sch1-2.</p>
wind farm	<p>Area on land or sea containing turbines that produce electricity from wind.</p> <p>Where a farm or other trade has turbines on its land, that is regarded for tax as part of the trade to the extent that the electricity is used in the trade. Otherwise the wind farm is treated as a separate trade.</p>
winding-up	<p>Process of ending a company's existence as set out in company law.</p> <p>Provisions for charities are given in Charities Act 2011 from s113.</p>
winding-up lump sum	Lump sum benefit paid to a member of an occupational pension scheme because the scheme is being wound-up and their accrued benefits under the scheme are deemed 'trivial', and which meets the conditions of paragraph 10, Schedule 29 to the Finance Act 2004.
winding-up lump sum death benefit	Lump sum benefit paid to a dependant of a member of an occupational pension scheme because the scheme is being wound-up and their accrued benefits under the scheme are deemed 'trivial', and which meets the conditions of paragraph 21, Schedule 29 to the Finance Act 2004.
winding-up order	<p>Order by a court for the winding-up of a company or other organisation.</p> <p>For a provider of social housing, the provisions are given in Housing and Planning Act 2016 from s104.</p>
winding-up petition	Petition presented to the court to wind up a company.
winding-up receipt	In relation to the remittance basis and banks, this term is defined in Income Tax Act 2007 s837C(3).
window	Part of a building (Capital Allowances Act 2001 s21(3) List A).
window dressing	In financial accounting, any policy or other procedure adopted to make the accounts present the business in a better light than would otherwise be justified.
window envelope	Envelope with a window that reveals the address typed on a letter folded inside.

Windows	Computer operating system developed by Microsoft. It is the most widely used operating systems on personal computers.
window shopping	Looking at goods in shop windows without buying them.
window tax	A tax that was levied between 1696 and 1851.
wind park	Another name for a wind farm .
wind power	Electricity generated by the wind turning a turbine.
wine	<p>Fermented juice of any fruit, except apples or pears. Before 15 March 1988, "wine" meant only fermented juice of grapes. Other fermented juices were known as made-wine.</p> <p>Wine is subject to excise duty on alcoholic liquor. The amount of duty depends on its alcoholic strength. For wine with a strength above 5.5%, a higher rate is paid for sparkling wine.</p> <p>The Act defines wine as "any liquor which is of a strength exceeding 1.2% and which is obtained from the alcoholic fermentation of fresh grapes or of the must of fresh grapes, whether or not the liquid is fortified with spirits or flavoured with aromatic extracts" (Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979 s1(4)).</p>
wine bottle	Any container for wine, particularly the size of 75 centilitres.
wine duty	Tax on wine, first introduced in 14 th century. It is now an excise duty imposed under Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979.
winger	In law, a judge who sits beside the main judge or magistrate.
Winnebago	Make of motor home.
winning	<p>In terms of trading in minerals, finding without mining, drilling or quarrying, such as finding stones on the ground.</p> <p>For tax purposes, it is regarded as exploitation of land, and is taxed on the same basis as mining operations. A leading case is <i>Golden Horeshoe (New) Ltd v Thurgood [1933] 18TC280</i>. The matter is discussed in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM35405.</p>
winter fuel payment	Lump sum payment from Social Fund to people over 60 regardless of their income or wealth.
winter heating assistance	Money or other assistance that may be provided in Scotland under Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 s30.
WIP	Work in progress.
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation.
WIRA	Wool Industry Research Association.

wire	Metal drawn out as a thread. The term has acquired many other meanings. These include to send a telegram or to send money by electronic means. It is also an old Scottish slang term for a pickpocket.
Wisc	Wisconsin, US state.
wish list	List of things one desires without consideration of practicality. Such a list is often a good starting point in negotiation.
WISP	WAP Internet service provider.
witching hour	Midnight, when witches supposedly stir into action. The term has been extended to when financial events happen, particularly in such expressions as double witching hour and triple witching hour.
Witenagemont	Anglo-Saxon national assembly that gave advice on various national matters including taxation.
with costs	Term used in legal judgments indicating that the winner is entitled to recover their legal costs from the loser.
withdraw	(1) In banking, process of taking money out of an account. (2) Rescind an offer, or exclude oneself from negotiations.
withdrawal	(1) Taking money out of an account. (2) Rescinding an offer or excluding oneself from proceedings.
withdrawal date	Date from which HMRC withdraws approval of an occupational pension scheme (Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 Sch 1 para 3B(7A)).
withdrawal rate	In social security, the rate at which tax credits are reduced according to the claimant's net income. The rate increased from 39% to 41% on 6 April 2011.
withering on the vine	Allowing the value of money to reduce over a long period through inflation .
withholding agent	General term for every type of body that assumes responsibility for administering a withholding tax on non-USA investments held by American investors under Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act 2010 of USA.
withholding foreign partnership (WP)	Partnership that assumes responsibility for administering a withholding tax on non-USA investments held by American investors under Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act 2010 of USA.
withholding foreign trust (WT)	Trust that assumes responsibility for administering a withholding tax on non-USA investments held by American investors under Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act 2010 of USA.

withholding responsibility	Power assumed by a non-US investment business (or equivalent) to administer the withholding tax under Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act 2010.
withholding tax	<p>Practice in most tax jurisdictions for the payer of interest (and sometimes other types of payment) to withhold an amount and pay it to the tax authorities of the payer's country. This amount is then offset against the payee's tax liability in that country.</p> <p>A formal definition is "tax on dividends or other income that is deducted by the payer of the income and paid to the tax authorities wholly on behalf of the recipient" (FRS 16).</p>
without prejudice	Comment on a letter which generally stops it being shown to a judge. It is used to conduct separate negotiations while a court case is proceeding.
without profits	<p>Description of a life insurance policy where the holder is not entitled to any share of the company's profits.</p> <p>The sum payable is only the amount guaranteed in the policy however profitable the insurance company may be.</p>
with profits	<p>Description of a life insurance policy where the holder is entitled to a share of the insurance company's profit.</p> <p>Each year a bonus is added to the guaranteed sum insured to reflect the company's profit. Usual practice is to 'smooth' such bonuses so that a comparatively unsuccessful year will not necessarily lead to a lower bonus but a succession of poor years will be reflected by a gradual reduction of bonus rate (and conversely for a series of successful years).</p>
with profits endowment	A fixed term investment with life cover. The guaranteed sum insured is increased by bonuses, representing a share of the profits of the life fund.
with-profits fund	For child trust funds, a definition is given in Child Trust Fund Regulations SI 2004 No 1450 Sch para 2(6).
witness	<p>"A person who stands up in court to state what they know after taking an oath to tell the truth" (website of Crown Prosecution Service).</p> <p>Every person charged with a criminal offence may be a witness in his or her own case (Criminal Evidence Act 1898 s1(1)(a)).</p> <p>A person may only be a witness in his or her own case if they so choose (ibid s1(1)(a)).</p> <p>The person's husband or wife may be a witness but only on the application of their spouse (ibid s1(1)(c)).</p> <p>No person called as a witness in a criminal case need incriminate himself or herself (ibid s1(2)).</p> <p>There are restrictions on asking witnesses questions about their own convictions (ibid s1(3)).</p>
wizard	Piece of computer software used to load other software.

WJEC	Welsh Joint Education Committee.
wk	Week or work.
wkly	Weekly.
WLA	Women's Land Army, disbanded in 1950.
WLR	Weekly Law Reports. Part of the citation of a court case included in this official series of reports. These reports are one of the two main official series; the other is the All England Reports.
WMA	Weighted moving average.
WMC	Working men's club.
WML	Wireless Mark-up Language.
WN	Law Reports Weekly Notes, published from 1866 to 1952.
WN (NSW)	Weekly Notes, New South Wales, Australian law reports published from 1884 to 1970.
WNP	Welsh National Party.
wo	Without.
w/o	Without.
WO	(1) War Office. (2) Warrant Office. (3) Welfare Officer.
WOB	White on black. This is a printing term for when white letters appear against a black background.
WOCCU	World Council of Credit Unions.
WOLTS	Withdrawal of legal tender status.
WOM adviser	Whole of market adviser.
woman	Female adult. There are several tax provisions. For national insurance, between 1940 and 2018 women have been able to receive the state retirement pension and stop paying national insurance at a lower age than men. This age was 60 up to 2010, and is being harmonised to 66 over the following ten years. The exact scope of what constitutes a woman for these purposes was considered in <i>M. TC00638 [2010]</i> that related to a person suffering from

gender dysphoria.

Until 1977, a married woman or widow could elect to pay a reduced rate of national insurance and receive fewer benefits. That right has been removed, but those who exercised may retain them.

Generally, the 20th century saw various changes in the law to equalise the position for men and women. These include:

- 1975 equal pay, and outlawing sex discrimination
- 1990 separate taxation of husbands and wives.

woman's contract	Contract of employment where the employee is a woman (Equal Pay Act 1970 s1(2)).
Women in Finance	Government-back initiative to encourage financial institutions to give due prominence to women. Signatories agree to four pledges: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have one executive responsible for gender diversity• have internal targets for gender diversity• publish annual reports on progress• have an intention to link senior pay to meeting targets.
Women's Equality Party (WE)	Political party formed in May 2015 to campaign for equality for women.
women's institutes	Provision of facilities as such institutes may qualify as a charity under Charities Act 2011 s3(4)(a).
women's sanitary products	Another name for sanitary products , which are subject to the reduced rate of VAT under Value Added Tax 1994 Sch 7A Group 4. A definition is given in para 1. This tax is known as the tampon tax .
won	(1) Currency of South Korea. (2) Currency of different value of North Korea. In both cases, the plural is the same as the singular. A won comprises 100 chon.
Wonga	Leading company for payday loans.
wonga	Slang for money.
WOO	Window of opportunity.
wood	For VAT, wood sold as fuel may be reduced rated under Value Added Tax Act 1994 Sch 7A Group 1 when supplied for domestic use. Further details are given in VAT notice 701/19. The wood must be held out for sale as fire wood.
wood-burning stoves	These may qualify for the reduced rate of VAT under Value Added Tax 1994 Sch 7A Group 2, from 1 January 2006.
Wood, Charles	English Liberal politician (1800-1885) who was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 6 July 1846 to 21 February 1852.

Wood Report	Report by Derek Wood QC in 1993 on the extent to which plant and machinery should be reflected in the rateable value of property.
Wood's halfpence	Copper coinage that William Wood introduced into Ireland in 1723.
woodlands	<p>Capital gains tax</p> <p>No capital gains tax arises from the disposal of trees or saleable underwood from commercially managed woodlands (Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s250).</p> <p>Inheritance tax</p> <p>Inheritance tax relief may be claimed for growing timber under Inheritance Tax Act 1984 s125. This defers the liability for tax until the timber is disposed of or until the next death.</p> <p>Income tax and corporation tax</p> <p>For income tax, woodlands were taxed at a nominal sum under Schedule B until 5 April 1998, after which they are not taxed at all. The management of woodlands is now regarded as a trade. However the commercial occupation of woodlands is not a trade (Income Tax (Trading And Other Income) Act 2005s11).</p> <p>The purchase and sale of woodlands is excluded from trading income (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s134 and Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s156).</p> <p>Corporation tax</p> <p>For corporation tax, commercial occupation of woodlands is a trade if managed on a commercial basis with a view to profit (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s38).</p>
Wood, Sir Kingsley	English Conservative politician (1881-1943) who was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 12 May 1940 to 21 September 1943 under the coalition government of Winston Churchill.
woolpack	Bag in which wool was packed, particularly the weight of 240 pounds.
Woolsack	Official seat of the Speaker of the House of Lords.
wool tax	A tithe payable between 1339 and 1369, similar to that paid to the church. It was levied to pay for the early years of the Hundred Years War.
word cloud	"A visual representation of the frequency with which different words appear in a piece of text" (Office of Tax Simplification Paper on Tax Definitions para 2.2.5).
words	<p>There have been several judicial comments on how to determine the meaning of words used in tax law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• judges may look at any provision of any statute (<i>Colquhoun v Brooks</i> [1889] 2 TC 490)

- words and phrases should follow their legal meaning if they have acquired one, and the ordinary dictionary definition when they have not (*Heaslip v Hasemer [1927] 13 TC 212*)
- where there is more than one meaning, the judge should choose the one which harmonises with the general intention of the legislation (*CIR v Wilson's Exors [1934] 18 TC 465*).

The Office of Tax Simplification has extensively looked at the issue of how tax law is drafted.

work	Physical or mental effort directed to achieving a task. The term also means remunerative activity such as employment or self-employment.
workaholic	Someone addicted to their work.
work allowance	<p>For universal credit, this is an amount that a claimant is allowed to earn before the amount of credit is reduced. If a person earns more than this allowance, the credit is reduced by 65% of the excess.</p> <p>Each claimant is entitled to one, and only one, work allowance. The amount depends on whether the claimant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is a single person or a couple• is responsible for one or more children• has limited capacity for work.
workaround	<p>Temporary provisions which allows a provision to be completed when necessary information is not to hand. An example includes an all-purpose code which may be used when the proper code is not known. The dummy UTR for tax purposes is an example.</p> <p>Another example in 2017 was when it was discovered that it was not possible to make an online report of a no gain/no loss for capital gains tax. The workaround was to report a gain or loss of 1p.</p>
work availability requirement	For universal credit , "is a requirement that a claimant be available for work " (Welfare Reform Act 2012 s18(1)).
work breakdown structure (WDS)	<p>In project management, the analysis of work into separate work units. It is the basic document in project management.</p>
work capability assessment (WCA)	<p>In social security, an assessment of how far a person is not able to work and thus entitled to receive certain benefits.</p> <p>The WCA was revised on 28 March 2011 under SI 2011 No 228.</p>
Work Choice	Government employment scheme. Wages paid under it are subject to normal PAYE rules (CWG 2 para 45).
work equipment	In relation to employee expenses, "means tools or special clothing" (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s367(5)).

worker	<p>General term which applies to anyone who works for someone else.</p> <p>All employees are workers, but workers also includes staff provided by an employment agency, homeworkers and outworkers, casual labourers, piece-workers and commission-only workers, seconded staff and staff on short-term contracts.</p> <p>Some rights belong to all workers and not just employees. These include the right to the national minimum wage, working time regulations, discrimination and right not to have deductions from wages.</p>
Worker Registration Scheme	<p>Scheme introduced between 1 May 2004 and 30 April 2011 that required workers from the A8 accession states of the EU to be registered as a condition for working in the EU. The Scheme expired on 30 April 2011.</p>
workfare	<p>Form of welfare where recipients must do some work.</p>
work first	<p>Social security policy adopted by UK, USA and Australia.</p> <p>The basic elements are to pay benefits at a low level and to provide various inducements for claimants to seek work, with penalties for non-cooperation. The alternative is known as the human capital approach.</p>
work-focused health-related assessment	<p>Assessment made of a person under Welfare Reform Act 2007 s11 with a view to making a payment of employment support allowance.</p> <p>For universal credit, a similar definition appears in Welfare Reform Act 2012 s16(4).</p>
work-focused interview	<p>Interview to determine entitlement to employment support allowance. The law is contained in Welfare Reform Act 2007 s12.</p>
work-focused interview for partner	<p>Interview with a partner of a benefit claimant where both the claimant and partner are under the age of 60, with a view to seeing if either could support the other. Entitlement to benefit can depend on the partner agreeing to attend such an interview (Social Security Administration Act 1992 s2AA).</p>
work-focused interview requirement	<p>For universal credit, "is a requirement that a claimant participate in one or more work-focused interviews as specified by the Secretary of State" (Welfare Reform Act 2012 s15(1)).</p>
Work for Yourself	<p>Government proposed programme of 2010 designed to assist unemployed people in starting their own businesses.</p>
workhouse	<p>Place where the poor could find accommodation and work under harsh conditions. They were provided from the 17th century until their final abolition in 1930. Parishes were legally required to provide workhouses from 1845.</p>
workhouse test	<p>Condition imposed by Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 which stated that poor relief could only be provided to those in a workhouse. This provision was</p>

never implemented.

It was a harsh test introduced in the mid-19th century with a view to distinguish needy poor from malingerers. Those who could not support themselves were sent to the austere regime of the workhouse, built to look like prisons, and largely function like them.

Workie

Puppet used in television commercials from 21 October 2015, sponsored by the Department of Work and Pensions to promote workplace pensions.



work induced illness

Illness that a person suffers as a consequence of their work. Some illnesses may qualify the person for certain social security benefits.

The term is used in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM37940 to explain that medical expenditure for such illness is not generally allowable. A leading case is *Norman v Golder [1944] 26TC293*.

working capital

Finance provided to support the short-term assets of the business (stocks and debtors) to the extent that these are not financed by short-term creditors. It is calculated as current assets minus current liabilities.

working capital cycle

Total of stock holding period plus customers collection period minus suppliers payment period.

working capital ratio

Current assets divided by **current liabilities**.

Most companies will seek a ratio between 1 and 3, though this depends heavily on the nature of the business. **Cash positive** businesses, such as supermarkets can prosper on ratios below 1.

working classes

Category of society that works for a living.

The term is now not preferred. It can be found in older legislation, such as Housing Act 1936 s34.

working conditions

General state in which an employee is expected to work.

working day

Employment tax

"A day on which the employee is at work" (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s89(3)).

Company law

For company law, "in relation to a company, means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or any day that is a bank

holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971... in the part of the United Kingdom where the company is registered" (Companies Act 2006 s1173(1)).

Tax tribunals

For tax tribunals, the term "means any day except a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday under section 1 of the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971" (The Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Tax Chamber) Rules SI 2009 No 273 rule 12(3)).

Small company protection

"Means a day other than —
(a) a Saturday or Sunday,
(b) Christmas Day or Good Friday, or
(c) a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in the relevant part of the United Kingdom"
(Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 s30D(2) as inserted by Enterprise Act 2016 s20).

EU regulations

EU council regulation 1182/71 defined a working day as "all days [sic] other than public holidays, Sundays and Saturdays".

working dog

Sheep dog, guard dog, gun dog, racing greyhound or dog for the blind. Specially formulated food for such dogs is zero-rated whereas dog food for pets is generally standard-rated (VAT notice 701/15).

working families tax credit (WFTC)

Means-tested social security benefit introduced on 5 October 1999, and payable through the payroll from 6 April 2000. From 7 April 2003, this was replaced by the **working tax credit** which is paid by DWP directly to the claimant.

working hours

"Any time when under [a worker's] contract of employment, or their contract personally to do work or perform services, he is required to be at work" (Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 s246).

working life

For purposes of an occupational pension scheme, "means the period beginning with the tax year in which the person attains the age of 16 and ending with:
(a) the tax year before the one in which the person attains the age of 65 in the case of a man or 60 in the case of a woman, or
(b) if earlier, the tax year before the one in which the person dies".
(Pensions Act 2004 s282).\

Working Neighbourhoods Pilot

Pilot scheme of in-work credit introduced by Finance Act 1996 and defined in SI 2004 No 575.

Working Neighbours Pilot	Pilot scheme trialled from April 2004 to test the idea of in-work tax credits.
working papers	<p>All documents used in the preparation of any financial statement, such as final accounts or tax return. This may include handwritten notes or calculations on plain paper.</p> <p>All working papers must be kept with the documents to which they relate.</p> <p>The papers must be written clearly enough that an accountant, with no prior knowledge of the financial statements, can understand the working papers.</p> <p>Every separate sheet of the working papers must have three headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the name of the person or business to whom it relates;• the period of time to which it relates, such as identifying the financial year;• the nature of the details on the paper. <p>Accounting firms often require additional information, particularly the name of the person preparing the paper and the date it is prepared.</p>
working partner	Partner in a business who is engaged in partnership activities, unlike a sleeping partner .
working tax credit	<p>Means-tested social security benefit payable to someone in work on a low income.</p> <p>It is paid in accordance with Tax Credits Act 2002 from s10.</p> <p>The benefit is not subject to income tax (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s677).</p> <p>This benefit is to be abolished and replaced by universal benefit under Welfare Reform Act 2012 s33(1)(f).</p>
Working Time Directive	<p>European Union directive 2003/88/EC issued on 22 June 2000 and binding on all member states. It updates directive 93/104/EC of 1993.</p> <p>Its main provisions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• daily rest of 11 hours in every 24-hour period (art 3)• a rest period every six hours (art 4)• a weekly rest period of 24 hours uninterrupted (art 5)• a working week limited to 48 hours in seven days (art 6)• at least four weeks' holiday a year (art 7)• maximum 8 hours of night work (art 8)• additional provisions for night workers (arts 9-13). <p>There are some exceptions to these provisions.</p> <p>The directive became effective under UK law from 1 October 1998 under SI 1998 No 1833. It should have become law from 23 November 1996.</p>
Working Together (WT)	Project started in 1999 by HMRC and representatives of taxpayers to discuss matters of mutual interest. It is also the title of a newsletter produced by HMRC for tax agents.
Working Together Steering Group (WTSG)	Body which replicates locally the work done by the National Working

Together Steering Group (NWTSG) in discussing tax issues with HMRC.

work in progress (WIP)

Value ascribed to items partly completed at the end of an accounting period. Such items are more than stock but less than completed goods. The value of work in progress is added to **stock** to give the figure for **closing stock**.

An example of work in progress is when components have been partly assembled or a partly-constructed building. Accounting standards allow an appropriate element of labour to be added to the cost of materials.

For major items of WIP, it is necessary to estimate the amount of labour so far expended. Where there are many items of similar nature, it may be sufficiently accurate to add half the labour cost required to complete an item.

The income tax provisions for valuation are given in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 from s182.

The tax implication is discussed in the Inspectors' Manual at BIM33020.

workman

This term is now largely abandoned as all workers are subject to similar treatment. Historically there were significant differences for tax, social security and working conditions.

The following is a (non-current) definition "any person of the age of sixteen or upwards employed wholly or mainly by way of manual labour, who has entered into a contract of service with an employer, whether the contract is express or implied, is oral or in writing, and in relation to a person whilst unemployed means a person who, when employed, fulfilled the conditions aforesaid, but does not include an indentured apprentice" (National Insurance Act 1911 s107(1)).

work of art

Value added tax

For purposes of VAT:

- (a) a painting, drawing or pastel executed by hand, other than hand-painted or decorated manufactured articles;
- (b) an original engraving, print or lithograph; or
- (c) original sculpture or statuary in any medium.

Such a work attracts a special rate of VAT of 5% (2½% before 1 July 1998).

There are special rules for valuing imported works of art, including a fuller definition, in Value Added Tax Act 1994 s21.

This arrangement also applies to **antiques** and **collectors' items**.

Inheritance tax

For inheritance tax, a **person's estate** excludes foreign works of art that are in the UK "for one or more of the purposes of public display, cleaning and restoration (and for no other purpose)" (Inheritance Tax Act 1984 s5(1)(b)).

Capital gains tax

A work of art that qualifies for inheritance tax relief may also qualify for exemption from capital gains tax (Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s258).

Export licence

Certain works of art may require an export licence from the Department of

Culture, Media and Sports.

- work permit** “A permit indicating, in accordance with the immigration rules, that a person named in it is eligible, though not a British citizen, for entry into the United Kingdom for the purpose of taking employment” (Immigration Act 1971 s33).
- workplace** “In relation to an employment, means a place at which the employee’s attendance is necessary in the performance of the duties of the employment” (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s339(1)).
In guidance published in January 1998, Inland Revenue stated that a workplace could be an area rather than a specific location. Examples include a gamekeeper working in a wood or a railway worker employed on a section of line.
- workplace ballot** Ballot held by a trade union at the workers’ place of work, as required by Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 s228.
- workplace monitoring** Arrangements whereby employers monitor what their employees do. This has become more of an issue with the development of new technology, such as wristbands to monitor warehouse workers and checking on employees’ social media accounts.
The TUC recognises that some monitoring can improve business practices and protect the health and safety of workers, while other monitoring is unjustified. They set out their views in the paper *I’ll Be Watching You* published in August 2018.
- workplace parking** “Means —
(a) a parking space for a car or van,
(b) a motor cycle parking space, or
(c) facilities for parking a cycle other than a motor cycle” (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s237(3)).
Provision of such parking by an employer is not usually a taxable benefit in kind. If it is offered as part of a salary sacrifice arrangement, it can be taxed from 6 April 2017 under the **optional remuneration arrangement** rules.
- workplace phobia** Fear of the workplace.
- work preparation requirement** For **universal credit**, this “is a requirement that a claimant take particular action specified by the Secretary of State for the purpose of making it more likely in the opinion of the Secretary of State that the claimant will obtain paid work (or more paid work or better-paid work)” (Welfare Reform Act 2012 s16(1)).
- Work Programme** Welfare programme introduced in 2010 to replace **Flexible New Deal** as the mandatory route for job search support and training. It increased the penalties for non-participation.

Work Programme provider	Private or voluntary organisation that is paid by Department of Work and Pensions to administer the work-related requirements of universal credit .
work-related activity	<p>Activity which a recipient of employment support allowance may be required to undertake as a condition of receiving the allowance. This includes such activities as training and community work.</p> <p>The law is contained in Welfare Reform Act 2007 s13.</p> <p>For universal credit, the term is defined as “activity which makes it more likely that the person will obtain or remain or work or be able to do so” (Welfare Reform Act 2012 s40).</p>
work-related activity component	For employment support allowance , an addition to the basic allowance that is payable during the main phase after the assessment phase (usually of 13 weeks) has ended. The claimant must attend work-focused interviews and other activities designed to return the claimant to work.
work-related requirement	<p>For universal credit, one of the claimant responsibilities as set out in Welfare Reform Act 2012 s13.</p> <p>The four requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a work-focused interview requirement• a work preparation requirement• a work search requirement• a work availability requirement. <p>Identical provisions apply for jobseeker's allowance under Jobseekers Act 1995 s6(2) as inserted by Welfare Reform Act 2012 s49.</p>
work-related training	Such training is a taxable benefit in kind unless within the scope of the exemptions in Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 from s250.
work search requirement	<p>For universal credit, “a requirement that a claimant take —</p> <p>(a) all reasonable action, and</p> <p>(b) any particular action specified by the Secretary of State,</p> <p>for the purpose of obtaining paid work (or more paid work or better-paid work)”</p> <p>(Welfare Reform Act 2012 s17(1)).</p> <p>Similar provisions apply for jobseeker's allowance under Jobseekers Act 1995 s6D as inserted by Welfare Reform Act 2012 s49.</p>
workshop	<p>(1) Place where work is undertaken, usually of a specific manual nature.</p> <p>Between 27 March 1980 and 26 March 1983, small workshops attracted a capital allowance.</p> <p>(2) General term for any meeting with the intention of performing a stated task, such as formulating a policy.</p>
works transport service	<p>“Means a service which is provided by means of a bus or a minibus for conveying employees of one or more employers on qualifying journeys” (Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s242(2)).</p> <p>This usually means that an employee is not taxed on a benefit in kind when the employer arranges transport to and from work in a vehicle with at</p>

least nine seats.

works truck

“Means a goods vehicle which is designed for use in private premises and is used on public roads only —

- (a) for carrying goods between private premises and a vehicle on the road within one kilometre of those premises,
 - (b) in passing from one part of private premises to another,
 - (c) in passing between private premises and other private premises in cases where the premises are within kilometre of each other, or
 - (d) in connection with road works at the site of the works or within one kilometre of the site of the works”
- (Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 Sch 1 para 11(2)).

work tie

One of the **sufficient ties test** used in the **statutory residence test** for taxpayers.

The work tie is met if the employee works in the UK for at least three hours on each of 40 or more days of the tax year.

work unit

In project management, the tasks, activities and similar which collectively make up the project.

The work unit should have the following characteristics:

- be measurable in terms of cost, effort, resource and time
- result in a single verifiable conclusion
- have clear start and end dates
- be the responsibility of one identified person.

workwear

The clothing which a worker wears at work. The term is usually restricted to overalls and similar protective clothing which incorporates a logo for the company.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

Specialised agency of United Nations. It was established on 7 April 1948 under a constitution agreed in 1946, and is based in Geneva, Switzerland. It took over the Office International d'Hygiène Publique from the League of Nations.

Donations of medical supplies to WHO are usually allowable as a business expenses even if the donation does not otherwise meet the requirement for an allowable business gift. Further guidance is provided in the Inspector's Manual at BIM 45200 ff.

worldwide debt cap

Tax provisions set out in Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Act 2010 Part 7 and brought into effect from 1 January 2010. The provisions can serve to restrict the amount of UK tax relief that may be claimed by an international group of companies.

Worldwide Dispatch Manager (WDM)

Service provided by Parcelforce for customers who despatch many parcels overseas. The documentation provided under this service may be used as **proof of removal** to justify zero-rating supplied to another EU member state. Further details are given in VAT notice 725.

worldwide gross debt	Figure used in determining tax provisions of worldwide debt cap .
World Wide Web	Information system on the Internet which allows documents to be accessed from computers. Each participant is assigned a domain name which typically starts www. and is followed by a stylised form of their trading name.
worm	<p><i>Fish feed</i></p> <p>In a VAT case, worms supplied with ornamental fish could not be separately taxed. <i>Pier Aquatics [1990] VTD 7063</i></p> <p><i>Computer virus</i></p> <p>Computer virus which works by clogging up a computer through excessive duplication of data until there is no memory left.</p>
wort	"Any infusion, solution or mixture intended for fermentation as part of the process of manufacturing spirits" (Customs notice 39).
worth	Concept of the value of something.
WOSB	War Office Selection Board.
wound	<p>Physical injury, such as a cut.</p> <p>By extension, in human resources it relates to a problem that requires resolution, as against a bruise which can safely be ignored.</p>
wounds and bruises	<p>Early consideration in dispute resolution.</p> <p>It involves considering whether the dispute is a bruise that can be left to heal itself, or a wound that needs resolution.</p>
wounds pension	Pension paid in respect of a wound suffered in military service or war. The pension may be exempt from income tax under Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s641.
WOW	Waiting on weather, term used in oil industry.
wow factor	In marketing, an attribute that engenders and immediate positive response in a customer or potential customer.
WOWGR	Warehousekeepers and Owners of Warehoused Goods Regulations 1999.
WP	<p>(1) In relation to capital allowance for plant and machinery for a period that spans 6 December 2006, "the number of days in the whole period" (Finance Act 2007 Sch 5 para 17(7)).</p> <p>(2) Without prejudice.</p> <p>(3) Word processor.</p> <p>(4) Withholding foreign partnership.</p> <p>(5) Warsaw Pact.</p> <p>(6) Weather permitting.</p>

WPC	Woman police constable. The term was dropped by 1999. Women officers are denoted simply as PC.
WPICC	With-profits insurance capital component.
wpm	Words per minute, a typing speed. A competent typist should manage 65 wpm.
WR	(1) Weekly Reporter, series of law reports published from 1853 to 1906. (2) Western Region.
WRA	(1) Welsh Revenue Authority (2) Water Research Association.
WRAC	Women's Royal Army Corps.
WRA charter	Charter issued by the Welsh Revenue Authority in March 2018.
WRAF	Women's Royal Air Force.
wrapper	Financial Services Authority term for an arrangement for holding investments. Examples include an individual savings account (ISA) and personal equity plan (PEP) .
wreath	For VAT, this is a standard-rated supply. It is not within the scope of the exemption for funeral services. Further details are given in VAT notice 701/32.
wreck	For merchant shipping "following a maritime casualty, means: (a) a sunken or stranded ship; or (b) any part of a sunken or stranded ship, including an object that is or has been on board such a ship; or (c) any object that is lost at sea from a ship that is stranded, sunken or adrift at sea; or (d) a ship that is about to, or may reasonably be expected, to sink or to strand, where effective measures to assist the ship or any property in danger are not already being taken" (Wrecks Convention article 4) .
wreck commissioners	Tribunal that enquires into shipping disasters.
Wrecks Convention	"Means the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks 2007 done in Nairobi on 18 May 2007" (Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s255A as inserted by Wreck Removal Convention Act 2011 s1). The text of the Convention is given in Sch 11ZA of the 1995 Act.
wreck removal insurance	Insurance that a ship must hold if its gross tonnage is 300 tonnes or more. The insurance must be sufficient to pay for the removal of its wreckage. The requirements are given in article 12 of the Wrecks Convention. (Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s255J as inserted by Wreck Removal Convention Act 2011).

Wrenbury Committee	Committee that sat in 1919 to review company law. Its decisions made little difference to the law.
wrestler	A wrestler may retire on a personal pension at the age of 35, provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the person had the right by 5 April 2006,• the right was unqualified in that it needed no other person to consent,• the right was set out in the governing documentation of the pension scheme by 10 December 2003. (SI 2005 No 3451, as explained in the Inspector's Manual at RPSM 03106035).
WRI	Women's Rural Institute.
wright	Maker, deviser or repairer. The word is usually combined with another as in shipwright, wheelwright, playwright etc.
wrinkle	Minor problem that should be easy to resolve.
wristband	For VAT, these items are not clothing and so do not come within the scope of zero-rating when supplied for children (<i>Vidhani Brothers Ltd [2004] VTD 18997</i>).
writ	Legal or formal document by which a person is required to do something, such as attend court.
write down	In financial accounting, process by which the value of a fixed asset is reduced. This is usually done routinely by depreciation or as a separate event such as when items are stolen or lost in a fire.
write off	Process for removing a balance from the accounts, such as when a business accepts that a bad debt will not be paid. <p>This is usually made by an entry in the journal. The double entry is debit bad debts (an expense), and credit debtors (an asset). Such an entry usually requires a high level of authorisation.</p> Corporation tax provisions for writing off assets are given in Corporation Tax Act 2009 s184.
writing	"Includes typing, printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, and expressions referring to writing are construed accordingly" (Interpretation Act 1978 Sch 1). <p>Under contract law, a contract does not usually have to be in writing. Most contracts are legally binding if made verbally or implied from the conduct of the parties. A few contracts are required to be in writing, such as for insurance or property.</p>
writing down allowance (WDA)	Form of capital allowance which reduces a trade's liability for income tax or corporation tax.

written down value (WDV)	Value of an asset after capital allowances have been deducted. Note that this term differs from net book value which is the same original value minus cumulative depreciation .
written premiums	The total premiums on all policies written by an insurer during a specified period of time.
written resolution	<p>In company law, a resolution of the members of a private company as proposed by its directors or members where their views are obtained in writing.</p> <p>This procedure may be used to avoid the need to call a meeting. The procedure for written resolutions is contained in Companies Act 2006 ss288-297.</p> <p>A written resolution may not be used to remove a director or auditor.</p>
WRNS	Women's Royal Naval Service.
wrongful disclosure	Improper disclosure of information by HMRC of a taxpayer's information. It is an offence under Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 s19. There is an exception for public interest disclosure .
wrongful dismissal	<p>Termination of employment by the employer contrary to what the law or contract requires. Examples include not giving warnings or not giving adequate notice.</p> <p>Wrongful dismissal is a breach of contract. Therefore compensation is based on what the employee would have gained had the dismissal not been wrongful.</p> <p>Wrongful dismissal must be distinguished from unfair dismissal which is a statutory right under employment law.</p>
wrongful trading	<p>Offence of allowing a business to continue when it is obvious that it cannot meet its liabilities (Insolvency Act 1986 s214(2)).</p> <p>If the business was <i>set up</i> with the intention of defrauding customers and suppliers, the more serious offence of fraudulent trading is committed.</p>
wroth money	Feudal due paid to the lord of manor for protection.
WRP	Workers Revolutionary Party.
WRU	<p>Who are you?</p> <p>This was the standard code used by telex machines and similar devices to check that the message had been received by the intended recipient.</p>
WRVS	Women's Royal Voluntary Service.
WST	ISO code for Samoan tala.
WT	<p>(1) Working Together.</p> <p>(2) Withholding Foreign Trust.</p>

wt	Weight.
WTO	<p>World Trade Organisation, an organisation dealing with the rules of international trade.</p> <p>The WTO was established in 1995 and has its headquarters in Switzerland. It acts as a forum for trade negotiations; administers international trade agreements; and resolves international trade disputes. In 2004, the WTO had 147 member states.</p> <p>The UK has a permanent seat on the WTO which it cannot occupy as a member of the European Union.</p>
WTSG	Working Together Steering Group.
WV	West Virginia, US state.
WVa	West Virginia, US state.
WVS	Women's Voluntary Service.
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature, formerly World Wildlife Fund.
WWI	World war 1, 1914-18.
WWII	World war 2, 1939-45.
WY	Wyoming, US state.
Wyo	Wyoming, US state.
WYSIWYG	What you see is what you get.

X

X	<p>(1) Roman numeral for 10.</p> <p>(2) Equivalent to a national insurance contribution letter, once used to denote no national insurance liability.</p> <p>(3) In mathematics and general use, the first unknown quantity or person.</p> <p>(4) Abbreviation used for a non-UK resident in relation to capital gains tax (Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s271J(2)).</p> <p>(5) In relation to residence nil rate band for inheritance tax, means the attributable portion of the value transferred by a conditionally exempt transfer, as set out in Inheritance Tax Act 1984 s8M(2) as inserted by Finance (No 2) Act 2015 s9.</p> <p>(6) First character in a 14 or 15-digit payment reference provided by HMRC which should be quoted when making a payment.</p>
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£X	Amount of excess income above an individual's savings allowance for income tax (Income Tax Act 2007 s12A(2) as inserted by Finance Act 2016 s4).
xa	Abbreviation for ex all .
XAF	ISO code for CFA franc.
XB	Christmas bonus , social security benefit. This abbreviation appears on claimant's bank accounts.
XCD	ISO code for East Caribbean dollar.
XD	(1) Ex-dividend. This is the interval between the announcement and payment of the next dividend or, in the case of a unit trust, the income distribution. Someone who invests during the interval between two distributions and is not entitled to the dividend. With an income-paying unit trust, the 'xd' date is usually about eight weeks before its distribution date. (2) Ex-directory.
xd	Ex-dividend. Term used to denote a share price where the next dividend payment will be paid to the previous shareholder.
XDR	ISO code for IMF special drawing rights.
XE	Currency authority. Its website is http://www.xe.com/company .
XE currency data	Data on world currencies provided by XE .
xerography	Form of photocopying that does not use liquids. It was developed by the Xerox Corporation. The plate is sensitised electronically and dusted with electronically toner (like black soot) which is then baked on to the paper.
Xerox	Commercial company making photocopiers using xerography .
X-factor	Part of a serviceman's pay designed to compensate for disruption and disadvantages from loss of civilian life. By extension, the term has been applied to any indefinable quality.
xi	Fourteenth letter of Greek alphabet denoted as x or the capital Ξ. It also denotes the number 60.
XL	Extra large. In clothes sizes, larger sizes are denoted 2XL, 3XL etc.
Xmas	Christmas.
XML	Extensible Mark-up Language.
XML VAT Returns Service	Service offered by HMRC to tax agents with many VAT clients. The service allows the agent to file many VAT returns and EC Sales Lists at the same time.

XML wrapping tool	Software needed to deliver messages to Customs using XML in the export of goods.
XMS	Extended memory system, computer term.
XNOR	In computing, a logic circuit that has two or more inputs and one output. The output signal is 1 if the inputs equal an even number.
XOF	ISO code for CFA franc.
XOR	In computing, a logic circuit that has two or more inputs and one output. The output signal is 1 if the inputs equal an odd number.
XPF	ISO code for CFP franc.
xu	One hundredth of a dong, currency of Vietnam.
XXL	Extra extra large, particularly in clothing size.

Y

Y	<p>Tax code</p> <p>Suffix for a tax code used for someone entitled to the age allowance for a person born before 6 April 1935, but who is not entitled to the addition for being married.</p> <p>National insurance</p> <p>National insurance contribution letter for a mariner aged under 21. It was introduced in April 2015.</p> <p>Up to 1999/2000, it was used as the equivalent to a national insurance contribution letter that was used to denote a class 1A liability.</p> <p>Other meanings</p> <p>(1) Second unknown person or quantity.</p> <p>(2) Old Roman numeral for 150.</p> <p>(3) Abbreviation: yuan, currency of China.</p> <p>(4) Abbreviation: yen, currency of Japan, though symbol ¥ is more commonly used.</p> <p>(5) Year(s).</p> <p>(6) Number of days in a tax year in which an employee had private use of an employer's asset, as used in the formula in Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 s205A(3).</p>
¥	Symbol for yen, currency of Japan.
yacht	VAT leaft 701/20 notes that a yacht is unlikely to qualify for zero-rating as a houseboat .

Yahoo	An Internet search engine.
Yamaichi	Leading Japanese company dealing in securities.
Yankee bet	In gambling, a form of multiple bet on four horses in four races.
Yarborough	In gambling, a hand of cards where no card is higher than a 9.
yard	Imperial unit of length equal to 3 feet, 36 inches or 0.9144 metres. There are 1,760 yards in a mile.
YB	Year book.
Y Bwrdd Ystadegau	Welsh: Statistics Board.
YC	Young Conservatives.
Y&CC	Younge & Collyer's Company Cases, series of law reports published from 1841 to 1843.
yd	Yard(s).
year	<p>Unit of time based on how long the earth takes to revolve round the sun. This is 365.24219 days. For convenience, the year is divided into 365 days except for leap years which have 366 days. These are every fourth year, except that (since 1752) a year ending 00 is only a leap year if it divides by 400, so 2000 was a leap year but 1900 was not.</p> <p>The year is divided into 12 months of between 28 and 31 days. It is also divided into 52 weeks and 1 day (2 days in a leap year) to accommodate which there are special week 53 provisions for PAYE.</p> <p>The calendar is defined in Calendar (New Style) Act 1750.</p> <p>The term calendar year is used for the period from 1 January to 31 December when a distinction needs to be made from other types of year such as the financial year, tax year or academic year.</p>
year book	Document published every year, describing the activities of a particular body.
yearly interest	Another term for annual interest .
year of assessment	Year whose income or profit is subject to income tax or corporation tax.
year of departure	Last tax year of assessment before a temporary non-resident leaves the UK (Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s10A(8)).
year of expected first production	In relation to oil and gas companies, this term is defined in Corporation Tax Act 2010 s332FB(5).
year of return	Tax year in which a temporary non-resident leaves the UK (Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s10A(1)) and Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005

s368A(3)).

year of transfer	In relation to attribution of gains to beneficiaries, “means the tax year in which the transfer occurred” (Finance Act 2008 Sch 7 para 121(2)).
year-on-year	Financial results set out to be compared for consecutive years.
year to date (YTD)	Amount which represents a cumulative total from the start of a defined year. It is used in payroll to calculate PAYE.
years of discretion	Age at which a boy or girl is regarded as being capable of making moral judgments.
yeast	<p>Micro-organisms that are used to ferment sugar into alcohol. The commonest species used for this purpose is <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>.</p> <p>When sold as a product for use in food, yeast is generally zero-rated.</p> <p>A preparation or extract of yeast is specifically zero-rated for VAT. Under Value Added Tax 1994 Sch 8 Group 1, food is generally zero-rated. Excepted Item 3 standard-rates beverages. Items Overriding The Exception 4 reverses the exception, thus reinstating the zero-rating.</p> <p>Further guidance is given in VAT Notice 701/14.</p>
Yellow Book	<p>Name for the book <i>Admission of Securities to Listings</i> issued by the London Stock Exchange. It was a looseleaf book in a yellow cover.</p> <p>It has been superseded by material from Financial Services Authority.</p>
yellow-boy	Obsolete slang for a gold coin.
yellow brick road	Fictitious path to wealth, from <i>Wizard of Oz</i> .
yellow card	Card held up a football referee to warn a player of his conduct. By extension, the term is applied to any similar final warning.
yellow dog contract	Old American term for a contract between employers and employees to prevent the latter from joining a trade union. It was made illegal in the USA in 1932.
yellow flag	<p>Another name for a Q flag.</p> <p>This is flown by a yacht arriving from outside the EU while awaiting clearance by Customs and Immigration.</p>
Yellow Pages	Telephone directory printed on yellow paper, listing local businesses by classification. It was first printed in 1966 and became the standard method of finding traders until the Internet dominated. The last edition is that for Brighton (where it started) in December 2018.
Yemen	Arab state. Its currency is the riyal of 100 fils. The UK has no double taxation treaty.

yen	Currency of Japan. It comprises 100 sen.
YER	ISO code for Yemeni rial.
yes-man	Sycophant who routinely agrees with his boss to succour favour.
YHA	Youth Hostels Association.
yield	Return seen as a percentage on the investment.
YJB	Youth Justice Board.
YM	Texting abbreviation: you're welcome.
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association.
Ymchwil ac Arloesedd y Deymas Unedig	Welsh body of research and innovation established under Higher Education and Research Act 2017 s91(1).
Yn	Abbreviation: yen.
yn ddyddiol	Welsh: daily
yn fisol	Welsh: monthly
yn flynyddol	Welsh: annually
yn wythnosol	Welsh: weekly
yocto-	Prefix used in metric units. It means 10 ⁻²⁴ .
yogurt	For VAT, this is zero-rated as food except when sold to be eaten while frozen (VAT notice 701/14). Yogurt to be eaten when frozen is excepted by Value Added Tax 1994 Sch 8 Group 1 Excepted Item 1. Yogurt to be eaten unfrozen, though it may have been frozen for storage, is standard-rated under Item Overriding The Exception 1 in the same section.
yojan	Indian measure of distance equal to about 8 or 9 miles.
yoke	Something that joins together, such as wooden frame used for two oxen ploughing a field. By extension, it can mean any form of burden such as in onerous employment.
Yom Kippur	Jewish fasting day remembering the Day of Atonement.
YOP	Youth Opportunities Programme. The government scheme ran from 1978 to 1983 when replaced by Youth Training Scheme . Participants were sometimes called yoppers.

Yorks	Yorkshire.
YOS	Youth Offending Service.
yotta-	Prefix used in metric units. It means 10 ²⁴
young carer	"Means a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for an adult" (Care Act 2014 s63(6)).
young carer's assessment	An assessment a local authority may be required to make for a young carer under the provisions of Care Act 2014 s64.
young child	In relation to free childcare, means a child under the age of 5 (Childcare Act 2016 s1(9)).
young children	Children below the age of 14. For VAT, clothing for young children may qualify for zero-rating under VATA 1994 Sch 8 Group 16, as explained in VAT notice 714. It was unsuccessfully argued that the term should mean children under the age of 16 in the case <i>NA Gura (t/a Vincent Footwear) [2001] VTD 978</i> .
young offender institution	Establishment that holds young people given custodial sentences. It replaced Borstal.
Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)	Body formed in April 2010 to provide further education and apprenticeships for people aged between 16 and 19. It is established by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. It replaced the Learning Skills Council which replaced training and enterprise councils which replaced the Manpower Services Commission .
young person	In law, someone aged between 14 and 17.
Young Review	Review conducted by government actuary Andrew Young into lost pensions . The government accepted his review, which led to the Financial Assistance Scheme .
Youth Contract	Government-backed scheme to reduce unemployment among unemployed people aged between 18-24. It was announced in Autumn Statement 2011. Payments are subject to PAYE tax (CWG 2 guide para 45). It is now restricted to those aged 16 and 17.
youth rate	Another name for the reduced rate of national minimum wage for workers aged between 18 and 21. The term was used before October 2002.
Youth Training Scheme (YTS)	Training scheme introduced in 1983 to provide one year's job training for school leavers aged 16 or 17. It was extended to two years in 1986. Participating employers had to provide 13 weeks of training in work and social skills, and provide a certificate.

In 1989, it was renamed **Youth Training** and made the responsibility of **Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs)**. These functions are now undertaken by the **Learning and Skills Council** and equivalent bodies. These were themselves replaced in 2010 by **Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)**.

YouTube	Popular website on which video clips may be uploaded. HMRC has posted video clips on tax matters.
yo-yo allowance	Nickname given to annual investment allowance , in respect of the fact that the allowance has gone up and down frequently for no obvious reason.
YPLA	Young People's Learning Agency.
ypsilon	Rare form of upsilon , the Greek letter.
yr	Year.
YT	Yukon Territory, in Canada.
YTD	Year to date.
YTS	Youth Training Scheme.
yuan	Unit of currency in China. Gold coins from 5/20 to 1,000 yuan may be regarded as gold investment coins for VAT purposes (VAT notice 701/12A).
Yugoslavia	East European country created in 1918 which broke up into separate states from 1993.
yuppie	Young upwardly mobile person. Term was coined in 1980s.
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association.
Y Weinyddiaeth Gyliawnder	Welsh: Ministry of Justice.

Z

Z	<i>National insurance</i> From 6 April 2015, national insurance contribution letter used for employees aged under 21 in not contracted-out deferred rate contributions. Previously this contribution letter has been used for share fishermen . <i>Other meanings</i> (1) Third unknown quantity or person. (2) Old Roman numeral for 2000.
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Z\$	Abbreviation: Zimbabwe dollar.
zack	Australian slang for a five-cent piece, previously for a sixpence.
Zaire	Former name of the Congo , used between 1970 and 1997.
zaire	Currency used in Zaire .
zakat	Islamic tax of 2½% paid by Muslims on property transactions.
Zambia	<p>African country. Its currency is the kwacha of 100 ngwee. The UK has a double taxation convention of 1972 amended by a protocol of 1981. It also has a double taxation agreement of 2014.</p> <p>A pension paid from this country may be exempt from income tax under Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 s643.</p>
ZAR	ISO code for South African rand.
zarf	Holder for a coffee cup.
zari	Embroidery using gold thread.
zepto-	Prefix used in metric units. It means 10 ⁻²¹
zero	Nothing, expressed as a number.
zero-based budget	Budget where all expenditure starts at zero and must justify itself afresh each year, rather than just uplifting last year's figure.
zero-basing	Management policy of keeping to one's core activities. It is also known as sticking to your knitting . The opposite can be called buy a cow .
zero-carbon goods vehicle	Goods vehicle that emits no carbon dioxide. Such a vehicle attracts an enhanced capital allowance from April 2010 for five years.
zero-carbon home	Dwelling which provides no net carbon dioxide. Such a dwelling is entitled to stamp duty land tax relief from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2012 under Finance Act 2003 s58B as inserted by Finance Act 2007 s19.
zero-coupon bond	In investing, a bond which pays no interest, but which is sold at a discount allowing a capital gain to be made when it is redeemed.
zero duration gap	Duration gap of zero, that is when the life of assets and the life of liabilities are the same.
zero-emission	Description of car that does not emit carbon dioxide under any circumstances. Under Finance Act 2010 ss58-59, the provision of such a car to an employee between 2010/11 and 2014/15 is a benefit of nil for income tax purposes.

zero-emission van

Electric van or other goods vehicle weighing up to 3.5 tonnes that does not produce any carbon dioxide in its exhaust emission.

Until 5 April 2015, there was no taxable benefit when provided to an employee for his or her private use. Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the charge is phased in:

Tax year	Percentage of charge
2015/16	20%
2016/17	40%
2017/18	60%
2018/19	80%
2019/20	90%
2020/21	100%

The rates are given in Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 s135 as amended by Finance Act 2015 s10.

zero-hours contract (ZHC)

Contract of employment where the employer only pays the worker for the hours actually worked.

Where the contract prevents the worker working for someone else, this is known as **exclusivity**. This is generally outlawed under Employment Rights Act 1996 s27A as inserted by Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 s153(2).

zero inflation

State when there is no inflation in the economy.

Zero Rate Certificate

A certificate that a customer gives to a supplier to enable the supplier to zero-rate the construction of a building, a supply of land, or a supply of fuel and power. It is only allowed in specific circumstances.

zero-rated

Subject to VAT at a rate of 0%.

Note that zero-rated supplies are still **taxable**. Unlike **exempt** supplies, it is possible to claim **input tax** in respect of zero-rated supplies.

zero-rated schedule

Value Added Tax Act 1994 Schedule 8. This lists 16 Groups of supply which are zero-rated:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Food | 9 Caravans and houseboats |
| 2 Sewerage and water | 10 Gold |
| 3 Books etc | 11 Bank notes |
| 4 Talking books etc | 12 Drugs, medicines etc |
| 5 Construction | 13 Imports and exports |
| 6 Protected buildings | 14 Tax-free shops |
| 7 International services | 15 Charities etc |
| 8 Transport | 16 Clothing and footwear |

The exact scope of each Group must be carefully considered before zero-rating an item. For example, most imports and clothing are standard-rated despite the terminology used above.

zero-rating	The VAT law is contained in Value Added Tax Act 1994 s30.
zero-sum game	Situation where there is no scope for enlarging a market or opportunity, so one person can only gain if someone else loses.
zeta	Greek symbol to denote the number 7. The symbol is ζ
zetta-	Prefix used in metric units. It means 10 ²¹
ZEV	Zero-emission vehicle.
ZHC	Zero-hours contract.
Zhr	Zero hour.
zillmerising	“Method known by that name for modifying the net premium reserve method of valuing a long-term insurance contract by increasing that part of the future premiums for which credit is taken so as to allow for initial expenses” (FCA glossary).
zillion	Large unspecific number.
Zimbabwe	African country formerly known as Rhodesia. Its currency was the Zimbabwe dollar which became worthless in 2009 from hyperinflation. Other currencies such as US dollar and South African rand are used in practice. The UK has a double taxation convention of 1982.
Zimbabwe dollar	Currency of Zimbabwe. The currency in effect became worthless in 2009.
zip code	In USA, system of five-digit numbers to assist in delivery of post. It serves a similar function to the UK postcode .
Zip file	Computer file containing much data in compressed form.
zl	Abbreviation: zloty .
Z list	Total of transactions that can be produced from most modern forms of till. These are widely used in tax investigations.
zloty	Currency of Poland. It comprises 100 groszy.
ZMW	ISO code for Zambian kwacha.
Zollverein	A currency union of German states with Prussia.
zombie business	Term coined in 2012 for a business that is making a loss, but where the banks decline to foreclose to avoid taking the losses on to their books.

zombie contract	Contract that exists imposing a continuing liability on a party who no longer receives a benefit, such as paying to maintain a computer system that is not used.
zombie debtor	Person who takes out a loan but only pays the interest, leaving the capital unrepaid.
zombie household	Household that took out a mortgage which it had no realistic hope of repaying before the 2008 banking crisis. About two-thirds of the 12,000 mortgage products then available were targeted at credit-impaired borrowers.
zombie project	Business jargon for a project that comes back to life after it was supposedly killed.
zonal	Pertaining to a zone .
zone	Area which has been designated for a particular purpose, such as an enterprise zone .
zone time	The time in a particular zone of the world.
zoo	Admission to a zoo can be exempt from VAT as supply of a cultural service under Value Added Tax 1994 Sch 9 Group 13 Note 2. The extent to which input tax may be reclaimed for animal feed was considered in the case <i>Twycross Zoo (No 1) VTD 19548 [2004]</i> .
ZRE	Democratic Republic of Congo, from its former name of Zaire.
ZST	Zone standard time.
Zulu principle	Doctrine espoused by British financier Jim Slater (1929-2015) that good targets can be found among small companies by researching them thoroughly. It was based on his dictum that anyone who reads a few books about Zulus will be regarded as a world expert because most people know nothing about Zulus.
zum Beispiel	German: for example.
zwanziger	Old Austrian silver coin worth 20 kreutzers.
ZWD	ISO code for Zimbabwean dollar.
zymase	Any of a group of enzymes that induce fermentation of carbohydrates.
zymic	Relating to fermentation .
zymurgy	Science of fermentation .

Numbers

- OT code** For PAYE, a special code “which without allowing for personal allowances, effects deductions of tax at the basic rate, higher rate and additional rate so that during the tax year the amounts subject to deductions at the rate or rates concerned are in accordance with section 19 of ITA [Income Tax Act 2007] (income charged at the basic, higher and additional rates: individuals)” (PAYE regulations SI 2003 No 2682 s7(3)(ca)).
- 0300 numbers** Telephone numbers that start with 0300. HMRC started to use these numbers for its helplines from 13 June 2013. The process was completed by 30 June 2015.
These are usually cheaper to call than the 0845 numbers they replace.
- 07 brigade** Colloquialism for workers in the **black economy** who market their services by offering a mobile telephone number (beginning 07) and only using a Christian name.
- 1:2 benzopyrone** Approved marker for hydrocarbon oils under Hydrocarbon Oil (Designated Markers) Regulations SI 1996 No 1251 para 2(2). This substance was called Coumarin before 1 April 2015.
- 1, 4-dihydroxanthraquinone** Approved marker for hydrocarbon oils under Hydrocarbon Oil (Designated Markers) Regulations SI 1996 No 1251 para 2(2).
- 2 and 20** Typically fee for a manager of a **hedge fund**. He receives 2% of the fund's net assets each year and a performance fee of 20% of its profit. The managers do not share any loss.
- 2SV** **Two-stage verification.**
- ((3-(sec butyl)-4-(decyloxy)phenyl)methanetriyl)tribenzene** Approved marker for hydrocarbon oils under Hydrocarbon Oil (Designated Markers) Regulations SI 1996 No 1251 para 2(2). This was added from 1 April 2015.
- 3 series** Series of codes used on the HMRC **SAFE** computer system to record penalties incurred by taxpayer.
They are listed in the Inspectors' Manual at DMBM115020.
- 3 year period** Period for which loan stock must not be convertible to ordinary shares for incidental costs to be tax-deductible (Income Tax (Trading And Other Income) Act 2005 s59(1)(b)).
- 3½% war loan 1952** There are some special tax provisions for certain non-UK residents who hold this security. Details are in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 s154A.

5-year forecast	For the Scottish Fiscal Commission “in relation to a report prepared under section 2(2), means a forecast in respect of the financial year for which the report is prepared and each of the 4 subsequent financial years” (Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016 s3(2)).
5-year post-investment period	In relation to venture capital trusts, the term “means the period of 5 years beginning with the day after the investment date” (Income Tax Act 2007 s292AB(8) as inserted by Finance (No 2) Act 2015 Sch 6.
5-year rule funds	In relation to overseas pensions, this term is defined in Finance Act 2004 Sch 34 para 2(4) as inserted by Finance Act 2017 Sch 4 para 3.
6 April 1965 value	Capital gains tax is not charged on gains arising before this date. Further details are given in Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 Sch 2.
10-K	The form which an American public company must complete to file its accounts with the New York Stock Exchange.
10-Q	The form which an American public company must file each quarter to the New York Stock Exchange.
10-year rule funds	In relation to overseas pensions, this term is defined in Finance Act 2004 Sch 34 para 2(4) as inserted by Finance Act 2017 Sch 4 para 3.
15% holding limit condition	One of the conditions set out in Income Tax Act 2007 s274 for an investment to qualify for venture capital trust tax relief. The condition is broadly that, the holding does not represent more than 15% of the investor’s investments. This condition is further explained in s277.
18-25 trust	Another name for what is properly known as an age 18-25 trust .
20% rule	In relation to investment managers and the income of non-residents, this rule is set out in Income Tax Act 2007 s819. For the remittance basis, the rule is defined in Income Tax Act 2007 s835N.
20% time	Term used by some modern companies, particularly involved with software development. During this time, employees are free to develop their own ideas and submit them to the company. Google claims that 50% of its new ideas have come from 20% time.
30-day presence rule	For the purposes of the statutory residence test , a rule that any home attended by a taxpayer for fewer than 30 days (which need not be consecutive) may be disregarded in determining whether the taxpayer has sufficient ties for the second automatic UK residence test.
30-day rule	Capital gains tax Capital gains tax rule that applies when shares are acquired within 30 days of selling them.

VAT groups

HMRC policy that claims for a retrospective amendment to a VAT group should not be permitted if it requires amendment of VAT returns already submitted. This issue is discussed in the case *Capthorn Holdings Ltd [2015] TC 4582*.

- 30% eligible shares condition** One of the conditions set out in Income Tax Act 2007 s274 for an investment to qualify for **venture capital trust** tax relief.
The condition is that “at least 30% by value of the company’s qualifying holdings has been or will be represented throughout the relevant period by holdings of relevant shares”.
- 40 per cent test** A test used to identify who controls a **controlled foreign company**. The test is set out in Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 s755D.
- 41G (Trust)** Form used to notify HMRC that a **trust** has been created.
- 50/10 ratio** Measure of wage inequality, calculated by dividing earnings at the 50th percentile by those at the 10th percentile.
- 50:50 rule** Rule used in the agreement between HMRC and the British Air Transport Association in relation to capital allowances for jet aircraft, on whether they are treated as long-life assets. Unless specifically excepted, a jet is regarded as 50% long-life asset and 50% normal plant and machinery. The issue is explained in the Inspector’s Manual at CA23782.
- 51% subsidiary** Term used in tax law to denote a subsidiary where the parent owns or controls more than 50%. It is not necessary to own 51% or more, as 50% + 1 share is sufficient.
It is a condition of group relief that a parent must have **effective 51% control** of a sub-subsiary to be in a group (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s766).
- 64-8** Form used to register as a tax agent with HMRC.
- 70-day period** Period of 70 days in which the status of an immigrant may be investigated (Immigration Act 2014 s50(11)).
- 70% qualifying holdings condition** One of the conditions set out in Income Tax Act 2007 s274 for an investment to qualify for **venture capital trust** tax relief.
The condition is that “at least 70% by value of the company’s investments has been or will be represented throughout the relevant period by shares or securities included in the qualifying holdings of the company”.
- 70% rule** Rule that an overseas pension scheme had to designate a minimum of 70% of the funds that have had UK tax relief to be used to provide the member with an income for life. This provision was contained in Pensions Schemes (Categories of Country and Requirements for Overseas Pension Schemes and Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes) Regulations SI 2006 No 206 Regulation 2.

From 6 April 2017, this rule is repealed by SI 2017 No 398 Reg 3 as part of the reform of overseas pension taxation.

75% subsidiary	For group relief purposes, a subsidiary where the parent owns or controls more than 75% (Corporation Tax Act 2009 s765).
80% payment test	For diverted profits tax, the term is set out in Finance Act 2015 s107(7).
80% test	Requirement of enterprise investment scheme that at least 80% of the capital raised under the scheme must be "employed in the business". An example where this test became an issue can be found in the case <i>Skye Inns Ltd and C Richards. TC304 [2009]</i> .
80-20 rule	Another name for the Pareto principle .
90/50 ratio	Measure of wage inequality. It is measured by taking earnings for the 90 th percentile and dividing by those for the 50 th percentile.
90-day rule	Provision of Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s22C that, from 6 April 2015, requires a person to have spent at least 90 days of the tax year in a property for it to be regarded as a dwelling.
90-day tie	One of the sufficient ties test used as part of the statutory residence test for taxpayers. The test is met if the taxpayer spent at least 90 days in the UK in either or both of the previous two tax years.
90% equity holding	Condition for merger relief . The exact terms are set out in Companies Act 2006 s613.
90% rule	Business management rule that careful planning and forethought will result in getting about 90% of a project right. There is always 10% that can only be learned from experience.
90% subsidiary	Defined in Income Tax Act 2007 s301 as a subsidiary where the holder is entitled to at least 90% of the profits available for distribution.
91-day rule	Another name for the substantial and habitual visits rule that was used to establish ordinary residence .
99/90 ratio	Measure used to indicate inequality at high levels of wages. It is calculated by dividing wages at the 99 th percentile by those at the 90 th percentile.
666	Number of the mark of the beast , on which there has been a tax case.
125% mortgage	Mortgage which offers 125% of the value of a property. The lender would regard the additional 25% as likely to be secured by inevitable property value increases and the additional value of improvements funded from the additional loan. Such mortgages were offered by Northern Rock before it was

nationalised.

1982 holding	Holding of shares acquired before 1982 which are subject to special provisions for capital gains tax under Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 s109.
1983 Act	“Means the Value Added Tax Act 1983” (Value Added Tax 1994 s96(1)).
2013 Champions League final	Means “the final of the UEFA Champions League 2012/13 competition held in England in 2013” (Finance Act 2012 s13(6)).
£30,000 threshold	Limit for employment termination payments. Its provisions are set out in Income Tax (Earnings And Pensions) Act 2003 from s403.
£10-100 million cases	Tax disputes where the tax under consideration is between £10 million and £100 million. A sample of such cases should be referred to the Tax Disputes Resolution Board for guidance (HMRC Notice of 20 December 2013).
£100 million cases	Tax disputes where the tax under consideration is at least £100 million. Such disputes should usually be referred to the Tax Disputes Resolution Board for guidance (HMRC Notice of 20 December 2013).
£500 million adjustment	Tax dispute where the adjustment to tax payable is at least £500 million. Such a dispute should be referred to the Tax Disputes Resolution Board for guidance (HMRC Notice of 20 December 2013).

Non-English alphabets

Αριθμός Φορολογικού Μητρώου

Greek: value added tax number

Φόρος Προστιθέμενης Αξίας

Greek: value added tax

Ідентифікаційний номер платника податків

Ukraine: value added tax number

Идентификационен номер по ДДС

Bulgarian: value added tax number

Идентификационный номер налогоплательщика

Russian: value added tax number

Учетный номер плательщика

Belarus: VAT number