

Plural of Abbreviation

1. If the abbreviation contains internal punctuation, form the plural with an apostrophe s.

Ph.D.'s

M.C.S.'s

releare

(but CPUs, LANs)

2. An apostrophe is also used to form some plurals, especially the plural of letters, symbols, and digits.

Regina received four A's on her report card.

Timothy used too many &'s in his paper.

The judges gave the diver two 9's and two 8's.

3. It is no longer considered necessary or even correct to create the plural of years or decades or abbreviations with an apostrophe.

He wrote several novels during the 1930s.

There are fifteen PhDs on our faculty.

My sister and I have identical IQs.

4. It should be noted that, in this matter, the New York Times does not observe the generally-accepted rules:

"Use of plurals is another area of confusion to authors and editors.

As with everything, Chicago/Turabian style takes precedence in this project. One area of specific confusion when it comes to computer terms is with acronyms. Most people mistakenly add an apostrophe and letter 's' to make an acronym plural. The major proponent of this incorrect method is 'The New York Times,' even though all publishing houses and computer magazines agree that it is wrong.

PBXs (not PBX's)

VLANs (not VLAN's)

NICs (not NIC's)

PCs (not PC's)

The possessive of an acronym plural has the apostrophe after the s.

PBXs'

VLANs'

NICs'

The only time we accept an 's is when the acronym is separated with periods. For example, Ph.D.'s."