

AAA

a/an	To determine whether the article “a” or “an” should be used in front of a number or letter, think of how the phrase would be spoken: an F/SA Pontiac, an SS/GA Camaro, a .07-under 10.42.
AAA	American Automobile Association, the national organization to which the Automobile Club of Southern California belongs
A-arm	
AARWBA	American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association
ACCEL	Automotive Controls Corporation Electronics
acceleration	
accommodate	
ACCUS	Automobile Competition Committee for the United States. Spell out on first reference with acronym in parentheses; use acronym on second reference. (Historical note: In 1965, NHRA became a member of ACCUS, the American arm of FIA, which is based in Paris. Other members of ACCUS include USAC, NASCAR, SCCA, and IMSA. Membership in ACCUS includes eligibility for international event sanction and the authority to conduct FIA-sanctioned world record attempts.)
ACCUS-FIA	Automobile Competition Committee for the United States-Federation Internationale de l’Automobile. Follow as with ACCUS (above).
ACDelco	Aftermarket parts division of General Motors
Achieva	Oldsmobile Achieva
Achilles’ heel	
acronyms	If an acronym is well-known, such as DRAW, its use on first reference is OK. If it is not well-known, use the full name of the organization on the first reference and its initials in parentheses immediately following; e.g., “The National Muscle Car Association (NMCA) held a barbecue. NMCA members say it was a complete success.” NHRA does not need to be spelled out on first reference.
adapter (not adaptor)	
addresses	Abbreviate St., Ave., and Blvd. when used as part of a numbered address; spell out all other designations (Drive, Road, Circle, Court, etc.). Abbreviate compass points when part of an address, as in 222 W. 58th St. (For more, see “addresses” in AP Stylebook.)

adviser (not advisor)

afterburner

aftermarket

after-party

A/Fuel Dragster (AFD)

A-game

AHDRA All Harley Drag Racing Association

air box

air dam

airflow

airfoil

airtight

aka Not "a.k.a."

alcohol Lowercase, except when referring to Top Alcohol Dragster or Top Alcohol Funny Car classes

align

all-out (adj.) As in "That was an all-out run."

all out (adv.) As in "She ran the bike all out."

all right

all-star(s)

Allstars In references to the JEGS Allstars competition, "Allstars" is one word and capitalized.

all time Hyphenate only as compound modifier: "He ran the sport's all-time-best speed." In this example, do not hyphenate: "His speed was the best of all time."

all-time wins list

a lot

altitude-adjusted/-factored index

AMA American Motorcyclist Association

American Honda Motor Co.

among/between

Generally, “between” introduces two items, and “among” introduces more than two; e.g., “between you and me”; “among us.” However, in some cases, between is more correct when referring to more than two items; e.g., “The problem was solved through communication between five sanctioning bodies.” Use your best judgment.

ampersand

The ampersand (&) is used only for official team names; e.g., Sox & Martin. Do not use it in the following manner: Bernstein & crew; Al & Jim Smith. NOTE: Reher-Morrison gets a dash, not an ampersand.

AN

For Army-Navy; e.g., -8 AN

anniversary

Lowercase unless part of an NHRA formal title

annual

Lowercase; an event is not an annual event until it has been held for at least two successive years. Do not use “first annual.” Instead, say “The sponsors plan to hold the event annually” or refer to the event as the inaugural event.

anti-roll bar

apostrophe (contractions)

Use an apostrophe to denote missing letters, as is done with contractions; e.g., don’t or can’t. Be aware of the following “contractions” in *National Dragster* copy: ’Cuda for Barracuda; ’Vette for Corvette. Avoid the following: he’s (do you mean he is or he has?), he’d (he would or he had?), she’d, they’d, we’d, we’ve, they’ve, must’ve, should’ve, could’ve, would’ve.

approved/accepted (NHRA)

NHRA accepts, it does not approve, technical equipment for use in competition. Write as “NHRA-accepted [noun].”

apps

In reference to applications on smartphones

archrival

Armco

Brand name for a type of guardrail

ART (not A.R.T.)

Applied Racing Technology

as/because/since

When the conjunctions “because” and “since” are used to mean “for the reason that,” they are grammatically interchangeable (but see NOTE below). “As,” when used in the sense of “because,” is syntactically correct but confusing and should be avoided. For example, in the sentence “He couldn’t hear the ambulance siren as he was listening to the car radio,” “as” could mean because he was listening or while he was listening. In addition to being confusing, “as” sounds stilted when used instead of because.

NOTE: Careful writers avoid using “since” when it may logically mean both “because of” and “from the time of.” For example, “Since the acquisitions librarian left, the collection has become a shambles” can mean either that trouble began when the librarian left, or that the loss of the librarian caused the problem. (From November 1990 Editorial Eye).

Austin Healey**Auto Meter****Automobile Club of Southern California (ACSC)**

Not “AAA”

Automobile Club of Southern California Road to the Future Award

Award for the top Pro rookie as voted on by a panel of auto racing journalists; do not call it the Rookie of the Year award.

Auto Start

Compulink automatic starting system used at NHRA national events

autoworker**awhile/a while**

The meaning of “awhile” is for a period; the “for” notion is part of the meaning. It is redundant to write, “She rested for awhile.” Instead, write “She rested awhile” or “She rested for a while.”

axle

BBB

bachelor's degree

When specifying a type of degree, capitalize "bachelor"; e.g., "Bachelor of Science"; lowercase in general use; e.g., "I have a bachelor's degree."

backfire

backflip/-ped/-ping

back-half (adj.)/back half (n.)

backhalve (v.)

backpedaled

backside

back-to-back (adj.)

As in "He won back-to-back titles."

back to back (adv.)

As in "He won those events back to back."

backup (adj., n.)/back up (v.)

backward

Band-Aid

barbecue

barnburner

Barracuda 'Cuda for short

Bar's Leaks

Bay Area Region that includes San Francisco

bbl. Change to barrel; for example, change "4-bbl. carburetor" to "four-barrel carburetor"

Be A Winner, Be A Member

beadlock

because/since See "as/because/since" entry

B/ED B/Econo Dragster

Bel Air Chevrolet make

“the Bellagio of dragstrips” Nickname used by zMAX Dragway

bellhousing

belly pan

“Best Of” awards

bias-ply

big-block (adj.)

“big cars”

Big Go Slang name for U.S. Nationals; no quotes

Big Go West Slang name for Winternationals; no quotes

big screen Sunoco Vision

BigStuff3

big-time (adj.)/big time (n.)

Big Three

blowby

blown alcohol dragster (BAD)

blowover

Blue Box, Ford

Blue Oval Another name for Ford, as in “Blue Oval fans”

blueprinting

blurping A momentary hit of the throttle

Bob Daniels Award of Excellence

bona fide

Bonneville 200-MPH Club

both When referring to two people by name, “both” is redundant; e.g., “Amato and Yates both reached the final.” It should read, “Amato and Yates reached the final.”

Bo Weevil

Bowtie Chevrolet’s emblem; trade name of Chevrolet’s line of aftermarket performance equipment

boyhood

bracket Capitalize B and follow with the numeral 1, 2, and the like when referring to a class name; however, bracket racing (lowercase b) is to be treated as we treat drag racing.

B.R.A.K.E.S. Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe

brand-new Often unnecessary; “new” should usually suffice

breakout (adj., n.)/break out (v.)

Brickyard Indy Brickyard; nickname of Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Briggs & Stratton

Bros./brothers

Use Bros. when referring to a team name or car name: “Nickens Bros. Racing.” Use brothers when referring to them as people: “The Nickens brothers had another fine outing.”

Btu British thermal unit

bubble In a qualifying field, the last racer qualified is in the bubble position (on the bubble) because if the next racer does better, the former’s bubble is burst. Also called the bump, bump position, or bump spot.

Buick Somerset

bullet Another term for engine

bump See “bubble” entry

bump steer

bumpstick

burndown

burnout (adj., n.)/burn out (v.)

business abbreviations

Abbreviate Co., Corp., Inc., and Ltd. when used at the end of a company's formal name or title, except when writing about The Coca-Cola Company

buyback (n.)/buy back (v.)**bye**

When a racer has no competition (perhaps because his or her opponent breaks just before his or her run or is a no-show) and receives a single run

C&L Companies

Cacklefest Used only for Cacklefests held at NHRA events; otherwise, write around it

CAD A type of computer design (do not spell out; CAD on first reference is OK)

cakewalk

California Hot Rod Reunion

Official title: NHRA Motorsports Museum California Hot Rod Reunion presented by Automobile Club of Southern California

CalTracs

Caltrans California Department of Transportation

cam chain

camshaft

canted-valve engine

capital/capitol

“Capital” refers to the city, “capitol” the building

captions

Make it a practice to write captions in the past tense. Some exceptions can be made for effect, and then the present tense may be used.

Use “from left,” not “from left to right.” Don’t get creative and use “from right” unless absolutely necessary. Avoid at all costs “center, back row, with glasses” or similar references.

In stories that have many photos by the same person, put the photo credit with the lead photo: [photo credit: name] Bruce Biegler photos. For a photo credit for one photo, use just the photographer’s name. Caption files should include the photo credit(s); photo credits entry.

Car Craft Magazine All-star Drag Racing Team

career Often unnecessary. The use of “career” is important when the number of times could be confused as “in a season.”

career-best (adj.)

car length

Castrol 4-Second Club for Funny Cars

Club for the first 16 Funny Car drivers to crack the four-second barrier

Castrol GTX High Mileage (no hyphen)**catch-up (adj., n.)/catch up (v.)**

Caterpillar Or Cat (not CAT)

cc Cubic centimeters; no space between number and abbreviation: 500cc, 1,000cc

cellphone

centerline One word unless referring to Center Line wheels

CEO OK on first reference

cfm Cubic feet per minute; no space between number and abbreviation: 14cfm

champion Do not capitalize champion or champ

changeover**chassis (singular and plural)****chassised****chauffeuring****Checker Schuck's Kragen**

No hyphens

Chevys Not Chevies

Chief Starter

Capitalize when used in reference to NHRA's chief starter and immediately preceding the name; e.g., "NHRA Chief Starter Mike Gittings activated the Tree."

CHiPs for Kids**chock-full****Christmas Tree**

Often abbreviated Tree

chromoly Short for chromium molybdenum

chute Abbreviation for parachute; no apostrophe

CIC Competition Index Control used in Comp. If a driver runs .51 or more under his or her index during eliminations, the index is adjusted by the amount he or she exceeded .51 under for the next round. Indexes also can be adjusted permanently for the entire class. Consult the NHRA Rulebook for information.

CIC'd The act of getting hit with a CIC penalty

cid Cubic-inch displacement; use a hyphen between the number and abbreviation when used as an adjective; e.g., “a 500-cid Pro Stock engine.” “The engine measures 500 cid (or 500 cubic inches).”

Ciera Oldsmobile make

cleanup (adj., n.)/clean up (v.)

clutch foot

Co. Use this abbreviation for company when the word ends a formal title; see “business abbreviations” entry. Spell out elsewhere.

Cobra Jet

Coca-Cola Company, The

Official title; exception to guidelines noted in “Co.” and “business abbreviations”

Coffman Tank Trucks

coil-over

coin toss

collectible

colon A colon often is used to introduce lists or to provide an example of what was mentioned in the clause preceding the colon. Examples:

“He described the factors essential to winning a race: superb reaction time, good e.t., and the desire to win.”

“Garlits described the crash this way: ‘I felt the tires lift, then I didn’t know what had happened.’ ” (Capitalize the first word after a colon only if it begins a complete sentence or is a proper noun.)

comeback (n.)/come back (v.)

commas

In a series: Use a comma before the final “and” in a series to avoid ambiguity.

With states: Use a comma after the city and after the state abbreviation; e.g., “The Whiteland, Ind., driver won his fifth race of the season.”

Do not use a comma to separate a last name from Jr. or Sr.; e.g., “Tommy Johnson Jr. won the race.” The same is true for a company that has Inc. as part of its title: “Write to AMCO Inc. for more information.”

commitment**committed****competition license**

NHRA competition license, always lowercase

complement/compliment

Complement means to augment, fill out, or complete when used as a verb; it means finishing touch, supplement, or counterpart as a noun. A compliment is an expression of admiration.

composition titles

Italicize album, video, book, video game, newsletter, and magazine titles; use quotes with titles of works or art and songs, chapters, and the like. The titles of reference books are not italicized; e.g., NHRA Rulebook, dictionaries, atlases.

Compulink

Racetrack timing system

computer terms

email, internet, intranet, Web page, website, webcam, webcast, webmaster

converter (not -or)**Corp.**

Use the abbreviation for corporation when the word ends a formal title; see “business abbreviations” entry

Corporate America**co-sponsor****Countdown to the Championship**

The last six playoff races of the season; can be referred to as Countdown after first reference

co-worker**Cragar Five-Second Club**

crew chief

crew man Change to crewmember if not in a quote

crewmember

cross-grade

crossed up When a car gets sideways; hyphenate as an adjective: "The crossed-up dragster faltered before the finish line."

crossmembers

Cross Talk

crosswind

crowd-pleaser (n.)/crowd-pleasing (adj.)

'Cuda Abbreviation for Barracuda

Cycle-Gard

cylinder Spell out the numeral before "cylinder" when used as an adjective: "six-cylinder engine"; but use numbers in other references: the No. 6 cylinder

DDD

DaimlerChrysler

database

data logger

dates Do not use comma between month and day or between month and year if that is all that is used; e.g., "The Sept. 15 meet was canceled." "September 2009 was a great month for racing."

If day, month, and date are used, set off with commas: "The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 17, in the conference room."

If month, date, and year are used, use a comma to separate date and year: "The meeting was held May 17, 2009, in the conference room."

Abbreviations: Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. NOTE: Spell out the month when using alone or with year; abbreviate when used with day alone or with day and year.

Inclusive years: 1980-87; '63-'67; (1980-87) or from 1980 to 1987

Events: Jan. 30-Feb. 2

Cars: Use the apostrophe ('69 Corvette); use four digits for events (1993 Winternationals)

DaVinci Brand of carburetor

dead heat

dead-on (adj.)/dead on (adv.)

decades If used as a contraction, place an apostrophe before the decade number ('60s, '70s, and '80s). NOTE: no apostrophe before "s."

decal-free Not "decal-less"

deep-stage (adj.)/deep stage (verb)

departments Spell out; initial cap when part of a formal title: NHRA Technical Department, NHRA Competition Department, etc.

destroke

detune

DeWalt

dial Amount of time a Stock, Super Stock, or bracket racer predicts his or her car will run in the quarter- or eighth-mile. On first reference: 10.53 (10.56 dial). On second reference: 10.55 (10.58).

dial in/under

Dial is sufficient. If “in” or “under” must be used, hyphenate as a noun, make two words as a verb.

diecast

died Use “passed away” only when the use of “died” might seem insensitive

DieHard Sponsor

diehard (n.)/die-hard (adj.)

digger Another name for a dragster; do not use quote marks; lowercase

digital *National Dragster*

directions/regions

Follow AP style; lowercase words indicating compass directions (east, west, north, etc.): “She now lives in western Pennsylvania.” Capitalize when they designate regions: “Southern California is thriving.” “The floods in the Midwest were devastating.”

DirecTV

discs Clutch discs

Dirt Late Model

When referring to the class; dirt Late Model when referring to the car. NOTE: In reference to the car, only lowercase dirt; Late Model remains capitalized.

division Lowercase and spell out, except when referring to NHRA Divisions 1-7 and as part of a title preceding a name. NOTE: For casual reference, use D-(#); e.g., D-3.

DNQ Abbreviation for “did not qualify”

DNQ’d

DNQs

DOHC Dual overhead cam

Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing

In Ocala, Fla.; site of the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame

door car

doorslammer

do-over (n.)

DOT Department of Transportation, tire designation; DOT acceptable on first reference

double-breakout (adj.)/double breakout (n.)

doubleheader

double-oh light

DoubleTree Hotel

double-up (adj., n.)/double up (v.)

downforce

downhill

downside

downtrack

Down Under

Drag Pak Dodge Drag Pak Challenger or Drag Pak Challenger

drag racing

dragster

dragstrip

DRAW Drag Racing Association of Women; DRAW acceptable on first reference

DRCE-3 GM engine; not DRCE-III

drive chain

driveline

Driver of the Year

driveshaft

drivetrain

dry hop

duallie

ducktail

DuPont

Dura-Moly

dynamometer (dyno)

Dynatek

DynoMax

dyno'd

Dzus Do not use; instead, use "self-locking fastener"

E3 Spark Plugs Pro Mod Drag Racing Series, NHRA

EasTexas Race Cars

eBay

e-book

e-commerce

Econo Lodge

Ecotec Chevy engine

ECU Engine control unit

editorial insertions

Use brackets, not parentheses

EFI Use electronic fuel injection on first reference, EFI on second

18-wheeler

eighthfinalist

eighth-mile To avoid confusion, always use eighth-mile, not eighth. NOTE: Articles from eighth-mile events should report the distance early in the story so that the reader will understand that the times were recorded on the eighth-mile.

electronic fuel injection

EFI on second reference

eleventh hour Not "11th hour"

eliminations Do not capitalize

eliminator Always lowercase

ellipsis Avoid using if possible

When used, use three consecutive periods with space on both sides to separate it from the words that precede and follow.

If an ellipsis follows a complete sentence, use a period at the end of the sentence; e.g., "She plans never to work here again. ... If she returns, we'll have to find a spot for her."

An ellipsis can also be used to separate items that are unrelated.

El Mirage dry lake bed

email

ensure/insure Use “ensure” to suggest that something is guaranteed to happen and “insure” to suggest that insurance (usually a legal policy) will make certain that one is protected.

Ent. See “business abbreviations” entry

ESPN

ESPN2

ESPN2HD

ESPY award

e.t. Elapsed time; always lowercase

E.T. Used when referring to E.T. racers or racing

ET Used when referring to Eastern Time

e.t.s No apostrophe in plural form

etc. Avoid use of “etc.”; it implies laziness or lack of knowledge on the reporter’s part. Instead, use “and the like” or “other such things.”

E-town Englishtown

EVO Mitsubishi make

Exhibit A

eye-catcher

FFF

4x4 As in “a 4x4 application”

501(c)(3)

F1 racing Also Formula One racing

facelift

face-to-face (adj.)/face to face (adv.)

It is “a face-to-face encounter,” but “they were face to face”

Factory Experimental

The class

fairing

Fairplex Location of In-N-Out Pomona Dragstrip (not L.A. County Fairgrounds or L.A. County Fairplex or any other variation); formal name is Fairplex at Pomona

Fan Fest

fare Get along, succeed; e.g., “How did you fare at the event?”

farther/further

Use “farther” when referring to physical distance, “further” for everything else

fast/quick Use “fast” for speed and “quick” for e.t.

Fat Head Brad Anderson heads

Federal-Mogul

Sportsman series sponsor from 1997 through 2001

feeless

female (adj.)/woman (n.)

fenderwell

FIA Federation Internationale de l’Automobile

FIA Drag Racing Commission

FIA European Drag Racing Championship Series

“FIA Series” on second reference

fiery

FIM Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme

fine-tune

fireboot

fire-resistant (adj.)

Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.

firesuit

firewall

first annual Never! Use “inaugural” to describe the first race in a situation where there will be a recurring event each year, or say that the event is expected to be held annually

first-class (adj.)

firsthand

FISA Federation Internationale du Sport Automobile. It no longer exists; it became part of FIA in October 1993.

fishtail

flat-out (adj.)

flat out (adv.)

-flat Hyphenate as a suffix; use numerals; e.g., 5-flat

flexplate

flip-top

flopper Another name for Funny Car; do not use quote marks; lowercase

flow bench

flywheel

foot Spell out; e.g., “1,000-foot track,” not “1,000-ft. track”

footbox

footbrake (n., adj.)

foot brake (v.)

foot-pounds Measure of torque. NOTE: Some engineers prefer to limit the use of the term “foot-pounds” to the torque needed to tighten a bolt or nut properly and to use “pounds-feet” to describe the torque produced by an engine.

footprint

forego, forgo “Forego” means to go before or precede; “forgo” means to do without or give up.

foresee Not “forsee”

Formula One racing

Also F1 racing

Fort Always spell out, as in Fort Worth, Texas

four-cylinder/-door

Not “4-cylinder, 4-door”

four-link

Not “4-link”

4-Second Club for Funny Cars

Castrol 4-Second Club for Funny Cars

four-wide track (lane designations)

When describing lane designations at four-wide track, use: Lane 1, Lane 2, Lane 3, or Lane 4, from left, facing downtrack.

FOX All caps; e.g., FOX Sports, FOX network

framerrails

Frank Hawley’s Drag Racing School

freelance

front-engine (adj.) Not “front-engined”

front half (n.)

fronthalved (v.)

front-runner

frontstretch

Fuel Altered Uppercase when referring to the class; lowercase when describing the car

fueler Nitro-powered race car; e.g., Funny Car, Top Fuel dragster

Full Throttle Energy Drink

full-time (adj.)/full time (adv.)

As in “He has a full-time job” or “He worked for us full time.”

full Tree Amber bulbs flash five-tenths of a second apart; used in Comp, Stock, and Super Stock

fundraiser

GGG

Gs G forces. When using numerals, use space between number and letter; e.g., “5 Gs” or “9 G ride”

game plan

Garlits Museum of Drag Racing, Don

In Ocala, Fla.; site of the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame

Gary Anderson Attention to Detail Award by SoffSeal

Gasser Wars

gasses

gatejob

gauges

gear Use numerals: 1st gear, 2nd gear, 3rd gear

gearbox

GEICO

gel/jell Gel means “to change into or take on the form of a gel: set”; jell means “to take shape and achieve distinctness: to become cohesive.” For example: “The mixture will begin to gel at this temperature.” “The team didn’t begin to jell until late in the season.”

Gerould, Gary

Gilmer belt Blower belt

gimme/gimmes

Go Full Throttle or Go Home

No quotes

go-karts

Gold Card NHRA Gold Card; awarded to various Sportsman season champs entitling them to free entry at specified events

goodbye

Goodguys

goody bag

good Lord

grassroots (adj.)/grass roots (n.)

Greasweep Avoid reference to brand names for oil absorbers unless you are certain it was the one used; see “oil absorber” entry

grille

grocery-getter

G Squared Motorsports

GSX-R Model of Suzuki motorcycle

GT As in Mustang GT (no periods)

guardwall

gusset Reinforce frame or chassis section

HHH

half-scale dragster

half-track

Hall of Fame

handheld

hand in hand (adv.)

handmade

hard core (n.)/hard-core (adj.)

hardworking (adj.)

hardy/hearty “Hardy” means bold, brave, or capable of withstanding adverse conditions;
 “hearty” means giving unqualified support, jovial, or vigorous.

Harley-Davidson

hashtag

hatchback

Hawley’s Drag Racing School, Frank

Hayabusa Model of Suzuki motorcycle

hazmat

headers

headfirst

headlines All headlines on NHRA.com are to be written in sentence case; however, title case shall be used for all *National Dragster* headlines. Per AP style title case rules, capitalize the first word of every letter except articles, coordinating conjunctions, and prepositions of three letters or fewer. There’s one exception: Any word that is the first word in the headline or the last word should be capitalized, regardless of its part of speech; e.g., Bits From the Pits, Five Minutes With, etc.

head start

heads-up (adj.)

head-to-head (adj.)

As in “The title was decided in a head-to-head match.”

head to head (adv.)

As in “They are going head to head at this event.”

headwind

Heart Like a Wheel 1983 movie about Shirley Muldowney

hemi/Hemi

In general, lowercase; e.g., “The engine was designed for use with hemi heads.” The plural is hemis. Uppercase Hemi when making specific reference to Chrysler’s product. Plural is Hemis.

highboy

Descriptive term for a fenderless hot rod, whose body sits atop the frame

high C’ing

highway

When used generally, lowercase; when identified with a number, capitalize; e.g., U.S. Highway 1

Hill’s Drag Racing School, Roy

historic

Takes article “a,” not “an”

historical

Takes article “a,” not “an”

Hofmann, Al

holeshot

Reacting quicker to the Tree to win a race against a quicker opponent; holeshot is the correct term in past and present tense

Holley National Hot Rod Reunion presented by AAA Insurance, NHRA Motorsports Museum

Held at Beech Bend Raceway Park in Bowling Green, Ky.; on second reference, use Holley NHRA Reunion or reunion

Holley 6-Second Pro Stock Club

For the first 16 Pro Stock drivers to crack the six-second barrier

holidays

Merry Christmas, happy holidays, a happy new year, happy Thanksgiving, New Year’s Eve/Day

homebuilt

home state (n.)/home-state (adj.)

hometown

home-track (adj.)/home track (n.)

hood scoop

horsepower Do not abbreviate “hp”

hotbed

hot-lap

hot rodder

Hot Rod Corral

Hot Rod Heritage Racing Series, NHRA

***Hot Rod* magazine**

hotshoe

Howard’s Cams Twin Bears

hp Spell out “horsepower” unless a number proceeds it, like “1,400 hp”

Hughes Performance Low Qualifier award

Hurst Jaws of Life

hydraulicked

hyphens Hyphens are not used with straight, bracket racing, drag racing, match racing/race, elapsed time, high school, national event, national record, sport compact, too quick, track record, percentages, top speed, winner’s circle, or low qualifier.

Hyphens to remember: all-time-best, five-time champ or 10-time champ, family-owned

III

inaugural	Never use first annual; inaugural indicates the event will continue for years to come.
Incorporated	Abbreviate Inc.; no comma before
index	Lowercase when referring to NHRA class system of handicapping. Super Comp (8.90), Super Gas (9.90), Super Street (10.90), Comp (racers try to run as far as possible under their index without going too far; see "CIC" entry)
IndyCar	
Indy car	The type of car, open-wheel car
initials	Use periods and no spaces; example: J.R. for J.R. Leerkamp. Follow the same rule when using initials for first and last name; examples: W.J. for Warren Johnson, T.J. Jr. for Tommy Johnson Jr.; however, for a person who uses first and last initials and the last name, such as GT Tonglet (Gary Tonglet Jr.), don't use the periods. Also, Pro Stock racer JR Carr requests no periods; JR is his given name.
inline	Description of cylinder arrangement of an engine
insure/ensure	Though the two can be used interchangeably, it is best to use "ensure" to suggest that something is guaranteed to happen and "insure" to suggest that insurance (usually a legal policy) will make certain that one is protected; e.g., "Running at 9 a.m. ensured Muldowney that she would get at least one run." "Muldowney was insured should any injury occur to person or machine."
internet	
intranet	
ION Television channel	
IROC Camaro	

Jaws of Life, Hurst

JEGS Allstars Divisional points-earning program for Sportsman racers. The top drivers in each category from NHRA's seven divisions compete in this race within a race at the Chicago national event.

jell/gel Do not confuse. To jell means "to take shape and achieve distinctness: to become cohesive"; to gel means "to change into or take on the form of a gel: set" (Webster's Tenth). For example, "The team didn't begin to jell until late in the season"; "The mixture will begin to gel at this temperature."

Jerry Titus Award

jets Jet cars cannot race legally on NHRA tracks, and they are not to be reported as doing such; however, they can make side-by-side passes.

Jr. drag racer The participant

Jr. drag racing The sport

Jr. Drag Racing League, NHRA Summit Racing

Jr. Drag Racing Conference Finals, NHRA ("Conference" preceded by Eastern or Western)
Conference Finals OK on second reference

Jr. Dragster The car or the class; Jrs. OK on second reference

Jr. Dragster The publication; add magazine after title for clarification if confused with car

judgment

junior/senior Abbreviate as Jr. or Sr. only with full name of person; e.g., Tommy Johnson Jr. NOTE: No comma between last name and Jr. or Sr.

Jr. Comp The class

Jr. Fuel The nostalgia category

Junior Gas The class

jury-rigged

KKK

Kandy Magazine

Karmann Ghia

kayoed Knocked out; not KO'ed

KB Keith Black engine; KB-powered dragster

King of the Track, NHRA Summit Racing

Use on first reference; "King of the Track" or "NHRA Summit King of the Track"
on second reference is OK.

K&N Horsepower Challenge, NHRA

Bonus race for Pro Stock racers based on qualifying throughout a one-year
period; contested at Las Vegas national event

kph Kilometers per hour; conversion to mph = kph x .625

KYMCO

LLL

L.A. Hooker

Lady Luck

lane designations (four-wide track)

When describing lane designations at four-wide track, use: Lane 1, Lane 2, Lane 3, or Lane 4, from left, facing downtrack.

LeBaron

left on To be left on means to be holed out

LeMans

Levi, Ray & Shoup

lid-lifter

lifestyle

Like Only when referring to Facebook

line-loc

lineup

Lippencott Jr., Floyd

Pseudonym for Bob Muravez

“little points” In reference to bonus points earned after a qualifying session

lockup clutch

logbook

Lone Star State

long-shot (adj.)/long shot (n.)

longtime

low e.t. Lowercase in all uses

low qualifier Lowercase in all uses

Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series, NHRA

National and divisional racing series for Sportsman racers beginning in 2002
(previously known as the Federal-Mogul Drag Racing Series)

MMM

MAD magazine

MainGate

major sponsor Lowercase, even when referring to NHRA major sponsor

Make-A-Wish Foundation

male (adj.)/man (n.)

mantel The shelf above a fireplace

mantle A symbol of authority (to invest someone or something with a mantle); something that covers, enfolds, or envelops

Manufacturers Cup

Manufacturers Midway

Do not add an apostrophe to a word ending in *s* when it is used primarily in a descriptive sense; e.g., not Manufacturer's Midway

matchup (n.)

match up (v.)

MavTV

Max Wedge Chrysler engine

Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, NHRA

Membership Hospitality Center, NHRA

Mensa

methanol Methyl alcohol — CH₃OH

Mickey Thompson Six-Second Pro Stock Bike Club

Mickey Thompson Tires

midrange

midseason

midsize

midtrack

MIG Metal inert gas; a type of welding

mindset

min shaft

minivan

M.O. Method of operation/modus operandi

mono leaf spring

Mopar Hemi Challenge, NHRA

Speed class (SS/AH) eliminations contested at U.S. Nationals and some SPORTSnationals events

more than/over

Whenever possible, especially where space is not a factor, use “more than” to denote something of a larger number. “More than 230 racers attended the banquet.”

motorcoach

motorcycles When describing a type of motorcycle, write the name of the manufacturer first and follow with the engine size or model; e.g., Suzuki 1150, Kawasaki Ninja

motorhome

Motorsports Hall of Fame (Novi, Mich.)

Mount Spell out, as in Mount Pleasant, Pa.

mountain motor (n.)

mountain-motor doorslammers

Mountain View Tire

mph Lowercase, no periods; conversion to kph = mph x 1.60934; use of mph acceptable in quotes: “We ran 300 mph several times last season.”

multibike

multicar

multiclass

multistage clutch

multitime

multiyear

museum

Official name: Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum presented by Automobile Club of Southern California; use NHRA Motorsports Museum on second reference

Mustang GT

NNN

#1 Stop Products

'n' Contraction of "and"; use apostrophes on both sides; e.g., wild 'n' woolly

nail-biting

National Dragster

Italicize, even when part of mailing address

National Dragster VIP Member of the Event

national event Lowercase

National Open

national record Lowercase

near miss (n.)

nerve-racking (adj. & adv.)

New York-New York Hotel & Casino

N.Y. Yankees Not Yankee, Yankees, or New York Yankees

NHRA Aerospace Components Excellence in Engineering Award

NHRA All Access

NHRA board chairman (not chairman of the board)

Capitalize in front of Dallas Gardner

NHRA.com

NHRA Drag Racing

Capitalize when referring to the association and the business of drag racing; e.g., "This is a new era in NHRA Drag Racing." (The phrase NHRA Championship Drag Racing is also OK.)

NHRA Drags: Street Legal Style presented by AAA

NHRA Factory Stock Showdown

NHRA Harley-Davidson Drag Racing Series

Classes: 10.50 Index, Hot Street, Draggin' Bagger, Street Pro, Pro Gas, Pro Fuel Harley, and Top Fuel Harley

NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series Awards Ceremony

NHRA Member “Member” capitalized only for Membership Midway in *National Dragster*

NHRA member track Hyphenated when used as an adjective; e.g., member-track programs

NHRA Member Track Network

NHRA Membership Hospitality Center

Available at NHRA-owned tracks in Pomona, Gainesville, Atlanta, and Indianapolis

NHRA Moser Sportsman Shootout

NHRA Motorsports Museum Holley National Hot Rod Reunion presented by AAA Insurance

Held at Beech Bend Raceway Park in Bowling Green, Ky.; on second reference, use Holley NHRA Reunion or reunion

NHRA National Field Office

NHRA Safety Safari presented by AAA

NHRA Sportsman Motorcycle presented by Harley-Davidson

NHRASore.com

NHRA Tech Department

NHRA Traxxas Nitro Shootout

NHRA Worldwide Network

NHRA Youth & Education Services presented by U.S. Army

nicknames

Lowercase “the” when part of racer’s nickname; e.g., “the Snake,” “the Ace.” Also, use quotes around a nickname that is tied to the racer’s name; e.g., “TV Tommy” Ivo and “Big Daddy” Don Garlits. When a nickname is a play off the racer’s name, no quotes are needed; e.g., Cruzler and Cory Mac.

nitroburner

nitro-burning (adj.)

Nitro Fish/Nitro Fish Wear

NitroMall

nitromethane

NitroPlate

nitrous oxide

No. Use as abbreviation for number in conjunction with a figure to indicate position or rank: No. 1 qualifier, No. 3 car, No. 7 in the standings, etc.

Nomex Du Pont's trade name for fire-resistant fabric

nonprofit

nonqualified/nonqualifying efforts

NOS Nitrous-oxide system

not only/but also

As a rule of thumb, use a comma if the subject of each clause is expressly stated; e.g., "He not only qualified No. 1, but he also won the race." Don't use a comma when the subject of the two clauses is the same and is not repeated in the second clause; e.g., "She was determined to not only win the event but also reclaim the points lead."

no-show

numbers Spell out numbers one through nine, generally, and use numerals for 10 and higher

Use numerals in all cases when referring to a person's age; e.g., "The 5-year-old boy," "She was 2 months old." However, don't use numerals for inanimate objects that have an age of less than 10 years; e.g., "the five-year-old car," "The battery was two months old." Percents also require numerals in all uses, like 1%.

Measurements: use figures for all physical measurements including miles, such as 5 inches, 3 millimeters, 6 feet, and 4 miles. 2 by 4, **NOT 2 x 4.**

Use numerals in all cases when referring to an annual event; e.g., 2nd annual, 25th annual

000

occur

occurred

occurrence

odd-lot single When a racer receives a single run because a qualified field has an odd number of racers; see “bye” entry

OEM Original equipment manufacturer

official sponsor Always lowercase

offseason

oil absorber Avoid using brand names (e.g., Greasweep) when referring to oil absorbers unless you are certain of the type used; several brands are now being used; see “Zorbitup” entry.

oildown

OK Do not use “okay”

Olds Ciera GT

Olds Cutlass Calais

old-time (adj.)

onboard

onetime

online

on-site

on-track (adj.)/on track (adv.)

open-wheeler

O-ring

outqualified

outran

over Use “more than” in cases when referring to an increase in number; see “more than/over” entry

overall

overbackward Not overbackwards

overdrive

overrev

Owners Cup

PPP

PA system	Public-address system
Palms Casino Resort	
parachute	May be abbreviated chute
part time/part-time	Hyphenate only when using as a compound modifier; e.g., “He works at a part-time job.”
past issues	When referring to past issues of <i>National Dragster</i> , use this format: (July 14); include <i>ND</i> after date only if it is not clear. Don’t use “Issue 27, page 14,” or any variation thereof.
paydirt	
PCRichard.com	
P.C. Richard & Son	
pedalfest	
pedaljob	
percent	Write out in each reference; don’t use % sign; always use numerals; e.g., 2 percent, 25 percent
performancefest	
perk	Short for perquisite; a privilege, gain, or profit incidental to regular salary or wages
pickup	One word to describe the vehicle; two words as a verb
PiranaZ	
pit crew	
pitside	When describing location
playoffs (n.)/playoff (adj.)	
points standings	Not point standings
polesitter	No. 1 qualifier

Portatree

possessives Use 's when showing possession, such as in "the car's tires" or "Phil's wallet"; however, use only the apostrophe when a word ends in s, such as in "Burgess' win." NOTE: With proper nouns ending in z, use 's when showing possession; e.g., "Schultz's bike."

post-event waiver

postrace

postseason

pound Spell out; don't use abbreviation "lb."

powdercoat/ing/ed

POWERade

Powerglide transmission

powerplant

powertrain

practice Tree

pre-event waiver

premier (adj.)/premiere (n.)

"Premier" is first in position, rank, or importance or first in time; "premiere" (noun) is a first performance or exhibition or the chief actress of a theatrical cast.

prepositions Prepositions that follow verbs often are unnecessary; e.g., heat up, cool down, print out

prequalify

pre-race

preseason

presented by National event "presented by" sponsors should be included in all race coverage and features on first reference; they can be excluded in columns.

pressroom

pre-stage

PRO Professional Racers Owners Organization

ProCare Rx

Professional Uppercase when referring to the Professional categories Top Fuel, Funny Car, Pro Stock, and Pro Stock Motorcycle and drivers who compete in those categories. The use of “Pro” is acceptable.

Pro-Jet Association

Pro Mod Pro Mod is preferred instead of Pro Modified. Pro Mod racers compete in the NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series.

Prostar Motorcycle sanctioning body

ProStart system

Pro Stock Motorcycle

NHRA’s motorcycle class; formerly known as Pro Stock Bike

Pro Tree LED bulbs flash simultaneously, followed four-tenths of a second later by the green starting light; used in all Professional classes and Sportsman categories of Top Alcohol Dragster/Funny Car, Super Comp, Super Gas, and Super Street

psi Pounds per square inch; no space between number and abbreviation

public-address system

See “PA system” entry

pushrod

push-start

push-started

QQQ

Q&A

quarterfinals Abbreviate quarters (no apostrophe)

quarter-mile Quarter is acceptable in some cases; e.g., “He turned a 5.66 on the quarter.”

quarterpanel

quarter-track

quick/fast When writing race reports, “quick” should refer to elapsed time; “fast” should refer to speed.

quote marks Do not use quote marks around the name given to a race car by its owner or driver, such as Fireman’s Quickie or Swamp Rat XXX. Capitalization denotes the proper name. Also, do not use quotes around a sponsor name.

Use single quotes in headlines. No quotes are used for *ND* departments; e.g., Bits From the Pits, On the Run. Use quotes for editorial items within the departments, such as headings.

quotes (editorial insertions)

When adding to a quote to clarify, use brackets, not parentheses

quotes (thought)

When a thought is indicated in a quote, set it apart from the other material with single quote marks; e.g., “And then I thought, ‘Man, I must be dreaming,’ but I wasn’t.” If a single quote mark is to go next to a double quote mark, separate them with a space; e.g., “She told me, ‘I want to go home.’ ”

RRR

R&D

Racebricks

race car

racecourse

race day (n.)/race-day (adj.)

racegoer

race-ready (adv. & adj.)

Racers For Christ RFC is acceptable on second reference

Racepak

race shop

Race Tech dragster

racetrack

race within a race Such as the bonus events

rack-and-pinion

ragtop

rail A dragster

rainout

ratios Per the AP Stylebook, use figures and hyphens: "The ratio was 5-to-1," "a 5-1 ratio." Omit the word "to" when numbers precede the word ratio.

Rat motor

rear-end (adj.)/rear end (n.)

rear-engine Not "rear-engined"

red-light Always hyphenated; past tense is "red-lighted"

Red Line Oil

refer

referring

regions East Region, West Region, Central Region, North Central Region
(Not eastern, western, and such. Note the use of “region” not “regional” when referencing the proper name of the region.)

Reher-Morrison The team of David Reher and the late Buddy Morrison; always use a hyphen, never an ampersand (&)

Reinhart, Alan

renowned

rerun To run again

restroom

rev limiter

Rieff, Dave

Right on Track Disney movie based on Erica and Courtney Enders’ Jr. drag racing careers

ring-and-pinion

Road Runner

roadster

ROC Race of Champions

roll bar

roll cage

rollout

round-robin

round-wins

Roy Hill’s Drag Racing School

rpm Singular and plural; lowercase; no periods or spaces

r.t. Reaction time; always lowercase

R/T Model of Dodge car, circa 2001

Rulebook Proper title is NHRA Rulebook. Because it is a reference tool, italics are not necessary; use of the term to describe any book other than NHRA's Rulebook is two words: rule book.

runner-up/runner-ups/runners-up

Use "runner-ups" if the driver takes that position more than once; e.g., "Richardson drove his car to two runner-ups." When referring to several people who have scored a runner-up, refer to them as "runners-up"; e.g., "Bernstein and Austin were runners-up at Indy."

runoff (noun) A race to determine a winner

SSS

S-10	Chevy pickup truck
SAMTech.edu NHRA Factory Stock Showdown	Factory Stock Showdown OK after first reference
sand trap	
savvy	
SCCA	Sports Car Club of America
SealMaster NHRA Track Walk	
seasons	Lowercase winter, spring, summer, fall
season-long (adj.)	
seat belt	
season opener	
seconds	Use the term “second” in all cases in which it is part of a modifying phrase: “three-second handicap,” not “three-seconds handicap”; “.43-second handicap,” not “.43-seconds handicap.” Memory aid: When the time involved is less than a second, a hyphen may be read as “of a”; e.g., .43-second may be read as forty-three-hundredths of a second.
SEMA	Specialty Equipment Market Association; acronym OK on first reference
semicolon	Use a semicolon when a stronger separation than a comma is needed but a period is too strong. The semicolon also acts much like a comma when a comma already has been used within a series. For example, “Smith ran times of 5.34, 245.76; 5.35, 244.23; and 5.23, 237.82.”
semifinals	Also semi’s
Send	In reference to the button on a cellphone
separate	
Sept. 11	9/11; the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the United States
Series	If the word is part of a name, as in the Lucas Oil Series or Super Quick Series, capitalize the S. If series refers to a group of events not linked by a formal title, lowercase the s.
setup (n.)/set up (v.)	

SFI This independent standards-making organization creates minimum specifications for safety-related equipment

SFI Spec Usually runs with a number, as in “SFI Spec 4.3”

sheet metal

shoebox

shootout

short block

short shift

short-shifted (v.)

short-wheelbase (adj.)

show-goers

shutdown (adj.)/shut down (v.)

shutoff (adj./n.)/shut off (v.)

side-by-side (adj.)/side by side (adv.)

sideways

Silly Season

since/because “Since” refers to time: “since I last saw him,” “since I was here last.” Do not use in place of “because”; e.g., “Because you are late, we will miss the show,” instead of “Since you are late, we will miss the show”; see “as/because/since entry.”

six-banger Six-cylinder engine

six-pack Carburetion system with six barrels

sizable

small-block

smartphone

smoky

Snap-on Tools

solder Alloy used to bond metals; as a verb, “to use solder”; pronounced “sodder”

speed use numerals: “2- speed, 3-speed, 4-speed,” etc.

Speed channel

Speed-Pro 200-mph Pro Stock Club

For the first 16 Pro Stock drivers to crack the 200-mph barrier

SpeedWeek ESPN program

sport compact Uppercase when referring to the now-defunct NHRA Xplod Sport Compact Racing Series (also NHRA Summit Sport Compact Drag Racing Series); lowercase when referring to the type of car; e.g. “He was a notable sport compact racer who competed regularly in NHRA’s Summit Sport Compact Drag Racing Series.”

SportsBusiness Journal

Sportsman NHRA Sportsman racers on the national and divisional levels are known as Lucas Oil racers. The categories are Top Alcohol Dragster, Top Alcohol Funny Car, Comp, Super Stock, Stock, Super Comp, Super Gas, Super Street (divisional titles only), Top Dragster, and Top Sportsman.

- **Top Dragster presented by Racing RVs**, first reference
- **Top Sportsman presented by Racing RVs**, first reference

Sportsman Motorcycle Series presented by Harley-Davidson, NHRA

Sportsman Racer Advisory Council (SRAC)

SportsNational Open

SPORTSnationals

NHRA’s Sportsman-only national events: JEGS NHRA Cajun SPORTSnationals in Belle Rose, La.; JEGS NHRA Northern SPORTSnationals in Columbus; JEGS NHRA Pacific SPORTSnationals in Fontana, Calif./Las Vegas; and JEGS NHRA SPORTSnationals in Bowling Green, Ky.

stage beam Not staging or staged beam

states

State name in text shall be written as follows when they are referred to in conjunction with a city: "The event was held in Santa Barbara, Calif., and was a huge success." Note commas after city and state. The first list below gives these abbreviations. The second list (in parentheses) should be used when giving a complete address; e.g., 2035 Financial Way, Glendora, CA 91740.

Ala. (AL)	Ky. (KY)	N.D. (ND)
Alaska (AK)	La. (LA)	Ohio (OH)
Ariz. (AZ)	Maine (ME)	Okla. (OK)
Ark. (AR)	Md. (MD)	Ore. (OR)
Calif. (CA)	Mass. (MA)	Pa. (PA)
Colo. (CO)	Mich. (MI)	R.I. (RI)
Conn. (CT)	Minn. (MN)	S.C. (SC)
Del. (DE)	Miss. (MS)	S.D. (SD)
D.C. (DC)	Mo. (MO)	Tenn. (TN)
Fla. (FL)	Mont. (MT)	Texas (TX)
Ga. (GA)	Neb. (NE)	Utah (UT)
Hawaii (HI)	Nev. (NV)	Vt. (VT)
Idaho (ID)	N.H. (NH)	Va. (VA)
Ill. (IL)	N.J. (NJ)	Wash. (WA)
Ind. (IN)	N.M. (NM)	W.Va. (WV)
Iowa (IA)	N.Y. (NY)	Wis. (WI)
Kan. (KS)	N.C. (NC)	Wyo. (WY)

Memory aid: Spell out the names of the two states that are not part of the contiguous United States and of the contiguous states that have five or fewer letters.

State names are not necessary with the following cities (AP Stylebook):

Atlanta	Houston	Philadelphia
Baltimore	Indianapolis	Phoenix
Boston	Las Vegas	Pittsburgh
Chicago	Los Angeles	St. Louis
Cincinnati	Miami	Salt Lake City
Cleveland	Milwaukee	San Antonio
Dallas	Minneapolis	San Diego
Denver	New Orleans	San Francisco
Detroit	New York	Seattle
Honolulu	Oklahoma City	Washington

Or with the following event sites:

Bakersfield	Epping	Topeka
Brainerd	Gainesville	
Bristol	Pomona	
Charlotte	Norwalk	
Columbus	Reading	
Englishtown	Sonoma	

Canadian cities and provinces are treated in the same manner editorially as U.S. cities and states: For example, the city is spelled out and the standard abbreviation for the province is used. For example, Saskatoon, Sask. Do not write Saskatoon, Sask., Can. A list follows:

Alberta (Alta.) (AB)

British Columbia (B.C.) (BC)

Manitoba (Man.) (MB)

New Brunswick (N.B.) (NB)

Newfoundland (Nfld.) (NF)

Nova Scotia (N.S.) (NS)

Ontario (Ont.) (ON)

Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) (PE)

Quebec (Que.) (PQ)

Saskatchewan (Sask.) (SK)

Also be aware of Labrador (LB), Northwest Territories (NT), and Yukon (YK)

Province names are not necessary with the following cities (AP Stylebook):

Montreal Quebec City Ottawa Toronto

stats

In all statistics but Pro and Top Alcohol Dragster and Top Alcohol Funny Car ladders, use lowercase for all defining words (heads-up, broke, foul, no time, no speed, and the like). In Pro and Top Alcohol Dragster and Top Alcohol Funny Car stats, use all caps for such words.

stick shift

Hyphenate as an adjective

Stratosphere Casino, Hotel & Tower

Street Legal

Only capitalize when it's the name of a class; e.g., NHRA Drags: Street Legal Style presented by AAA

strike/struck the tires

To smoke the tires

Styrofoam

subpar

Summit Racing Jr. Drag Racing League, NHRA

Summit Racing Jr. Drag Racing League Challenge, NHRA

Summit Racing Series, NHRA

Formerly the Sears Craftsman E.T. Racing Series. The divisional championships are the NHRA Summit Racing Series Finals; the national championship, contested at the season-ending NHRA Finals in Pomona in November among each division champion, is the NHRA Summit Racing Series National Championship (see below).

Summit Racing Series Finals/National Championship, NHRA

The Summit Finals are contested in each of NHRA's seven divisions to determine four class winners who will represent the division at the National Championship, held during the NHRA Finals in Pomona in November.

Sunoco Vision

Sunset Racecraft

supercar

Supercross

supercharger

Super-class (adj.) Super-class racers participate in Super Comp, Super Gas, and Super Street

"Super Season" When the NHRA schedule expanded from four events in 1969 to seven events in 1970 with the addition of the Gatornationals, Summernationals, and Supernationals

superspeedway

SuperSport An AMA Dragbike Championship Series class

supertrack

surround sound

SUV Sport utility vehicle; plural is SUVs

Suzuki GSX-R

swing-arm

24/7

'23-T, '27-T Ford roadster

280Z or 280ZX

tailhousing

tailwind

T-bird

T-bucket

teammate

team names Use full/complete name on first reference without the acronym, but the use of the acronym on second reference is OK; e.g., "Don Schumacher Racing" on first reference and "DSR" on second. Also see "DRAW" entry.

teardown (n.)

teenager

test 'n' tune

that/which Use "that" to introduce a limiting or defining clause; e.g., "The red car that was in the Funny Car final slammed into the guardwall before crossing the finish line." The clause "that was in the Funny Car final" defines "red car" and can't be omitted.

Use "which" to introduce a nondefining or parenthetical clause, one that could reasonably be enclosed within parentheses or could be omitted without leaving the noun it modifies incomplete; e.g., "The red car over there, which runs 5.09s, belongs to the newly crowned champion." Notice that "which runs 5.09s" simply adds more background material to the description of the car and can be omitted.

that/who Use "that" when referring to inanimate objects (things) and "who" when referring to people; e.g., "The driver who reacts quickest is usually the winner."

their/its Use "their" when referring to a group of people; use "its" when referring to an inanimate object; e.g., "Budweiser sponsored its fourth race."

"The Run" Tony Schumacher's record-breaking, championship-winning run in the final round of the 2006 Auto Club NHRA Finals

“the Zoo”

throttle stop

thumbs-up

Ticketmaster

tiebreaker

tie-downs (n.)

TIG Tungsten inert gas; a type of welding

time of day Use figures except for noon and midnight. Don't ever write 12 noon or 12 midnight; it's redundant. Use a colon to separate hours from minutes, and lowercase a.m. and p.m.; e.g., 3:30 p.m. or 11 a.m. (Never use 11:00 a.m.; 0s are unnecessary.) The further breakdown is as follows: 4:28:21.45 (hours, minutes, seconds, tenths, hundredths).

times For e.t. and mph: 5.63, 168.47, or 5.63 at 168.47 mph
With an index: 7.34, 137.44 (7.30 index)
Dials: He ran 10.37 on his 10.33 dial; he ran 10.37 (10.33 dial); he ran (-.56) 7.18, 186.79 — the (-.56) refers to how much the driver was off his dial or index. Or, she ran 7.18, 186.79 (7.74 dial); omit the word “dial” on second reference.

time slip

tire The rubber around a wheel; see “wheel,” “DOT” entries

tire measurements Tire sizes are expressed as follows: 14.5x32x15 (width x height x wheel size; lowercase x, no spaces); use of the word inch is usually unnecessary.

tire shake

tire smoke

tire spin

titles Titles of major works, such as books, magazines, movies, video games, television programs, plays, and the like, should be italicized; works of art, chapters within books, titles of magazine articles, names of episodes, and such should be placed in quotes.

Uppercase formal titles (not occupational descriptions) directly before a name, lowercase after a name, in all cases; e.g., NHRA President Peter Clifford, but Peter Clifford, NHRA president.

tonneau cover

toolbox

Top Alcohol Dragster, Top Alcohol Funny Car

Abbreviated designations are TAD and TAFC and are acceptable on second reference

top-end (adj.)

top end (n.) Far end of the racetrack

Top Fuel dragster

“Top Fueler” is OK

top speed Lowercase

Top 50 Drivers In reference to 2001 list created by NHRA

torquing

Torqueflite

toterhome

toward Never towards

Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach Pro/Celebrity race

trackside

TracStar Systems/Davis In-motion Satellites Top Sportsman

traction bars

Trans Am

transbrake

transmission Also, “tranny” is OK

transmission shield

traveling

Treed

Treeing

Trees

trek, trekked

T-shirt

tune-up

turbocharged

turnkey

turnoff (adj., n.); turn off (v.)

Twitter (n.)/tweet (v.)

For Twitter handles, treat them as you would treat the text in regular copy; e.g., @RonCapps28, @JFR_Racing, @AntronBrown, etc.

UUU

UDRA United Drag Racers Association

uh-oh

U-joint

under When writing about a racer who ran under his or her dial or index, use (-.40) 9.56, or “She ran .40 under the index.”

under way When something is in progress; always two words. “Once eliminations were
under way ... ”

uptrack

USAC United States Auto Club

USAC national sprint car champion

VVV

V-8, V-6

valve body

valve spring

valvetrain

Velcro Always use hook-and-loop fastener

venturi Slight hourglass shape in an air passage, as in a carburetor barrel or venturi; named for G.B. Venturi, an 18th and 19th century Italian physicist; always lowercase

'Vette Abbreviation for Corvette

vice president

vice versa

Volkswagen

V-Rod

Vroom Racing

V-TEC engine Honda/Acura

V-Twin Type of Harley-Davidson motorcycle engine

WWW

waive

Wally NHRA's official trophy, named after NHRA founder Wally Parks, awarded to event winners and special award winners; don't use "Wally trophy"

warm-up (n.)/warm up (v.)

water box

Web browser

webcam

webcast

webmaster

Web page

website

wedge Lowercase, except when referring to Chrysler's Max Wedge.

welder The machine

weldor The person

well- When well is used as an adverb, always hyphenate; e.g., well-adjusted

well-being (noun)

Western Swing NHRA's traditional three-race summer string of three races in three weeks in Denver, Seattle, and Sonoma

wheel The circular base on which a tire is mounted; see "tire" entry

wheelbase (long-/short-)

wheel speed

wheelstand/ing/er

wheelwell

which See "that/which" entry

while When two things are happening simultaneously; e.g., “Smith cut a great light while Jones was smoking the tires on his Chevy.” (NOTE: A comma is not used before while in this case because there is no interruption in time.) Don’t use “while” when referring to two things that are not related in time; e.g., “Smith ran a 6.57 in the second round while Jones ran that same number in the final.” It is more correct to use “and” in this case; e.g., “Smith ran a 6.57 in the second round, and Jones ran that same number in the final.”

whiz kid

wickerbill

wild card (n.)/wild-card (adj.)

Willys

windscreen

wind tunnel

Windy City

Wine Country

win light

winner’s circle

winning streak Not win streak; consistent with losing streak

Win on Sunday, Sell on Monday

Winston R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. brand that sponsored NHRA’s Professional racing series from 1975-2001.

Wittnauer Watch manufacturer that sponsored divisional Sportsman program

woman (n.)/female (adj.)

woolly

worldwide

World of Outlaws

Can be abbreviated WOO

WyoTech

XYZ

X-ray

yearlong

years Spell out when referring to the year of an event (1982 Winternationals); use apostrophe and last two digits when referring to a car ('82 Camaro, '01 Firebird); treat it how you read it; e.g., "an '09 Mustang," "He competed in Super Stock from 2010 to 2014." Also acceptable is 1967-'69.

yield

YouTube YouTube channels are not italicized, but names of shows are; e.g., NHRA's YouTube channel but the show *Top Gear* on YouTube

YNot Racing

Z28 Camaro

ZaZa Energy

zMAX

zoomie header

Zorbitup Brand name of rice-hull ash oil absorber; in use at NHRA events since July 1997

z's Use z's to show possession for modifier ending in z; e.g., "Schultz's bike"

ZX2 Ford vehicle