



Hello. I'm Margot Politis. Welcome to Study English, IELTS preparation.

Today we're going to talk about acronyms, abbreviations and names, and then we'll do a bit of vocabulary building as well.

The boy in today's clip is about to have a test to see whether he has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD.

While you're watching, listen for some other abbreviations.

How do you know if your child does have ADHD? An EEG brain scan helps answer that, say the Swinburne researchers.

Jacques Duff is a psychologist and one of Richard's PhD students. A computer programme will compare Xavier's brain scan with a database of scans of ADHD sufferers. If he does have the condition, the ADHD diagnosis will be automatically triggered.

Xavier was having a test to see if he has 'ADHD'.

'ADHD' is an abbreviation.

An abbreviation is the short form of a phrase or a word.

We often abbreviate phrases using the first letter of each word.

Notice that you use capitals letters for these types of abbreviations.

'ADHD' stands for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. 'ADHD' is much quicker and easier to say, and to write.

You might recognise some of these common abbreviations:

'UFO' stands for 'Unidentified Flying Object'.

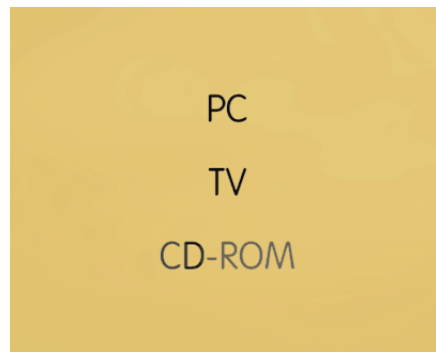
'ASAP' means 'As Soon As Possible'.

Other common abbreviations are:

'PC', 'Personal Computer',

'TV' for 'Television',

and 'CD-ROM' – that's a 'Compact Disc with a Read Only Memory'!





Notice that each letter in the abbreviation is pronounced separately, but the last letter is pronounced more strongly because it carries the primary stress.

So we say 'USA', 'ASAP', 'ABC', and 'TV'.

Listen for another abbreviation here.

Jacques Duff is a psychologist and one of Richard's PhD students.

Jacques Duff is one of Richard's PhD students.

'PhD' stands for Doctor of Philosophy.

Another abbreviation you'll recognise is 'IELTS'.

'IELTS' stands for 'International English Language Testing System'.

This form of abbreviation is called an 'acronym'. With an acronym, we don't pronounce the individual letters, we pronounce it as a word.

So we say 'IELTS', not 'I - E - L - T - S'.



Some other examples of acronyms are:

'AIDS', that's 'Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome',

and 'RAM', 'Random Access Memory.'

Another example is 'ASEAN' – that stands for the 'Association of South East Asian Nations'.

There's one more common shortening in today's story. Listen for whether it's an abbreviation or an acronym.

**An EEG brain scan helps answer that, say the Swinburne researchers.**

He says an 'EEG'. That's an abbreviation. We don't pronounce it 'eeg', we say 'E E G'.

'EEG' stands for 'Electro- Encephalograph'.

That's a type of brain scan, but you can see why we shorten it to EEG.

Notice that in formal academic writing, it's necessary to write out an abbreviation *in full* the first time you use it.



So if you wanted to write about an EEG, you'd write it out in full the first time, and place the abbreviation in brackets, like this.

'An Electro – Encephalograph [EEG] can help treat patients.'

After that in your paper, you can just use the abbreviation on its own.

OK. So let's listen to the clip again, but this time, listen for words to do with universities.



How do you know if your child does have ADHD? An EEG brain scan helps answer that, say the Swinburne researchers.

Jacques Duff is a psychologist and one of Richard's PhD students. A computer programme will compare Xavier's brain scan with a database of scans of ADHD sufferers.

He refers to the Swinburne researchers.

'Swinburne' is the name of a university in Victoria.

There were also some other university-related words.

Jacques Duff is a psychologist and a PhD student.

A great way to learn new words is in themes like this, and by organising them into word trees.

Let's look at university words.

Students might study for a 'Diploma', a 'Bachelor degree', an 'Honours degree', a 'Masters degree' or a 'PhD'.

Jacques Duff is a PhD student, so that's where he fits into this tree.

There are number of different people and places mentioned in today's story. We don't see them all, but we hear their names.

Listen for the names in this clip.

An EEG brain scan helps answer that, say the Swinburne researchers. Jacques Duff is a psychologist and one of Richard's PhD students. A computer programme will compare Xavier's brain scan with a database of scans of ADHD sufferers.

The people he mentions are 'Jacques Duff', 'Richard' and 'Xavier'.

If someone has an uncommon name, people will often ask how their name is spelt.



For example, 'Xavier' is an uncommon name in Australia. So if I met Xavier, I might ask him, "how do you spell your name?"

So it's a good idea to get used to spelling out your name.

'Xavier' is spelt like this: X-A-V-I-E-R, Xavier.

'Jacques' is also an uncommon name in English, because it's a French name.

In this case, we have both a first and a last name.

His first name is 'Jacques', and his last name is 'Duff'.

A first name is sometimes called a 'christian name'. It's also called a 'given name'. It's the name your family chooses for you.

The last name is also called a 'surname', or 'family name'. That's usually the name of one parent that's passed on to their children.

Jacque's first name is spelt 'J-A-C-Q-U-E-S', and his surname is Duff.

Notice that if you asked someone in Australia to spell out the name 'Duff', they would say: 'D-U- double F'.

But in North America, people would spell it like this 'D-U-F-F'. They don't use the word 'double'. They say the letter twice instead.

So if we asked Jacques Duff to spell out his surname, he would say:

'D-U-double F', or, he might say 'D-U-F-F'.

You'll need to be familiar with both ways of spelling out double letters. You should also make sure you know exactly how to spell out your own name in English.

That's all for today.

I'm Margot Politis - that's M-A-R-G-O-T P-O- L-I-T-I-S.

See you next time.