

Listening to electronics technicians discussing their work must, to the layman, be like listening to a foreign language; a circuit diagram must appear to him like a strange sort of street map. In the case of the written word, even more mystery can abound because words are often abbreviated, sometimes to just one letter.

It would become unwieldy to use some technical words every time they appear in a circuit diagram or elsewhere, so such abbreviations are essential. Circuit symbols represent components to the electronics technician in a way that a drawing of the device could not.

So that technicians can communicate effectively it is essential that the same abbreviations, symbols and terms are consistently used.

Most technical terms, abbreviations and symbols used in electronics are the subject of agreed standards set by the British Standards Institute and where these exist they should be used. However, in the case of logic symbols the electronics industry in Britain appears to have adopted the American symbols whilst technical colleges teach and use British Standards.

This booklet contains many of the abbreviations, symbols and terms that an electronics technician or student is likely to come across.