



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

Spelling and other useful stuff 2015–16



**Geological Survey of
Western Australia**



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Spelling and other useful stuff

This guide contains an alphabetical list of selected style points and the spelling, punctuation and abbreviation styles preferred by the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA). The purpose of this guide is to promote consistency in GSWA publications and to avoid repetitious decision making. Use the Glossary of geology (5th edition) 2011, for spelling of geological terms not listed in this guide.

A

AAPG

American Association of Petroleum Geologists

a/an

Use ‘a’ before words that start with a consonant sound and ‘an’ before words that start with a vowel sound, e.g. a horizon, an hour, a hotel

abbreviation of elements

Use only in compound words or as adverbs where they are commonly accepted, e.g. ‘Ca-metasomatism’, ‘K-feldspar’

Aboriginal people

Do not use ‘Aborigines’

about, approximately, in the order of

‘About’ is nearly always better, but use ‘approximately’ if fairly accurate figures are being given or when in brackets, e.g. (~15%). ‘In the order of’ should be used only with an established order of intensity, magnitude, or velocity — it should not be substituted for ‘about’

acid/acidic

Adjective used in igneous petrology for a rock with >63 wt% SiO₂ (cf. ‘basic’, ‘intermediate’, ‘ultrabasic’); synonymous with ‘silicic’; not synonymous with ‘felsic’, ‘sialic’. Do not use it together with ‘mafic’ or ‘ultramafic’ when making petrologic comparisons

acknowledgements

Mostly confined to external people or companies who have significantly contributed to the manuscript. If an author feels a GSWA colleague’s contribution was significant, co-authorship, or at least ‘With a contribution from ...’ should be considered

across-strike

Act	Use italics for acts, e.g. The <i>Mining Act 1978</i>
affiliations	For example, format as: ‘Geological Survey of South Australia, PO Box 1264, Adelaide SA 5001’. When listing international affiliations add the country at the end
AFTA	Apatite fission track analysis
AFTD	Apatite fission track data
age	Time at which event occurred, interpreted using geological information and dates. Do not use when reporting an analytically determined value. See date
age dating	Do not use. Use ‘isotopic dating’ or ‘geochronology’
age reference	Use: ‘of Ordovician age’ not ‘Ordovician age’
AGSO	Australian Geological Survey Organisation (former term; now Geoscience Australia, GA)
alternate/alternative	To ‘alternate’ is to take turns; an ‘alternative’ is an option, e.g. Google+ is an alternative to Facebook; heavy showers alternated with brief intervals of sun
approximately	See about . Do not use ‘circa’ for anything other than dates
aeolian	Archaic; use ‘eolian’
affect	A verb; do not confuse with the noun ‘effect’
AHD	Australian Height Datum
aircore	
airphoto	Alternative to ‘aerial photograph’
algal	Do not use when meaning is ‘cyanobacterial’, ‘microbial’, or ‘stromatolitic’, e.g. ‘microbial limestone’, ‘cyanobacterial mat’. See also blue-green algae
Albany–Fraser Orogen	With en dash
alkalis	
along-strike	As an adjective but ‘along strike’ when not attributive
although	Use instead of ‘but’

AMD	Acid mine drainage
among, amongst	Use ‘among’
AMSL	Above mean sea level
amygdales	Preferable to ‘amygdules’
a number of	Avoid. Use ‘rare’, ‘a few’, ‘several’, ‘common’, ‘many’ or ‘abundant’
analyse	
and/or	Avoid. ‘Or’ or ‘and’ alone may suffice to make the meaning clear; ‘or both’ may be added
and others	For references, use ‘et al.’
ANSIR	Australian National Seismic Imaging Resource
aphyric	Refers to a rock that contains no visible phenocrysts
API	American Petroleum Institute (gravity measurement of oil)
appear to be	Avoid; use ‘appear’
appendices	
ARC Linkage project	
Archean	Preferred usage following the ICS-IUGS (International Commission on Stratigraphy and International Union of Geosciences) international stratigraphic chart 2014. Older than 2500 Ma. Neoproterozoic (2800–2500 Ma), Mesoproterozoic (3200–2800 Ma), Paleoproterozoic (3600–3200 Ma), Eoproterozoic (4000–3600 Ma), Hadaean (4540–4000 Ma) replace informal use of ‘early’ and ‘late’
are indications of	Avoid; use ‘indicate’
arenite	Use only for sandstone unit with <10% matrix. Not synonymous with ‘sandstone’
argillite	Avoid; use ‘siltstone’ or ‘mudstone’
artefact	Preferable to ‘artifact’
as a result of	Avoid; use ‘because’
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange

B

back-arc

backreef

backshore

back-to-back (attrib.)

ball-and-pillow structure(s)

banded iron-formation ‘Iron formation’ on its own is not hyphenated

barite

base metals,
base metal deposit Institutionalized phrase so no need to
add hyphens in compound modifier

basic Adjective used in igneous petrology for a rock
with $45 < \text{SiO}_2 < 52$ wt% (cf. ‘acidic’, ‘intermediate’,
‘ultrabasic’; not synonymous with ‘mafic’ or
‘femic’)

Basin Capitalized when a named basin or basins, i.e. Perth
Basin, Edmund and Collier Basins

batholith Use lower case in a unit name; ‘batholith’ is a
structural, not a stratigraphic, term

beach ridge

beachrock

bedding plane But ‘bedding-plane view’

bedform

bedrock

beds Not acceptable in a formal name as ‘beds’ or ‘Beds’.
If necessary, upgrade the unit to a formal name
(with definition, type section). For regolith maps
where mapping isn’t done, use the lower case ‘beds’
instead, with quotation marks

below-ground (adj.)

belt All belts are in lower case, e.g. Yandal greenstone
belt, Whim Creek greenstone belt. See **fold belt**

benefitting

BGS	British Geological Survey
BIF	Preferred to ‘banded iron-formation’ where its use is repeated in a text, unless it is used in a less scientific article
billion years	Use for expressing interval of time. For dates, use ‘Ga’ in preference to 10 ⁹ years
black-and-white banded chert	
blowout	
blue-green algae	Do not use when ‘cyanobacteria’ is meant (previously ‘blue-green algae’). Unless the meaning is specific, use ‘microbial’
bluish-green	But not hyphenated when modified by an adverb, e.g. ‘pale bluish green’, ‘dark blue green colour’
BMR	Bureau of Mineral Resources (subsequently Australian Geological Survey Organisation, AGSO, now Geoscience Australia, GA)
bore	May be used as a synonym for ‘borehole’, or to refer to borehole and surface pumping equipment
boresite	
borehole	
borehole line	Do not use ‘boreline’
bottomhole	
BP	Before present
braided deltas	
breakup	
brownfields	
bureaus	
but	Avoid; use ‘although’
byproduct	

C

c.	Abbreviation of ‘circa’ (not ca); applicable only to dates that are not precise (e.g. c. 2680 Ma; use 2.7 Ga if still less precise). Not to be used for other units of measurement and not a synonym for ‘approximately’. Always has a space after, not italicized
Ca-metasomatism	
Cainozoic	Archaic; use ‘Cenozoic’
calc-alkaline	An adjective, not a noun, e.g. ‘calc-alkaline rock’
calc-silicate	An adjective, not a noun, e.g. ‘calc-silicate rock’
cannot	Do not use ‘can not’
caprock	
carbon-14	
CBL	Cement-bond log
CD-ROM	
central Australia	
Cenozoic	Comprises Paleogene + Neogene + Quaternary; does not replace Tertiary. Quaternary will continue to be used by GSWA, to encompass the Holocene and Pleistocene until international usage is clarified
centre line	
CET	Centre for Exploration Targeting
cf.	Means ‘compare’
channel-fill deposit(s)	
chemical symbols	Spell out chemical name in text, e.g. ‘the rock is calcium rich’, but use symbols with chemical assays, e.g. ‘65 ppm Sr’
chondrite-normalized	
CID	Channel iron deposits (institutionalized phrase)
clast-supported (adj.)	
claypan	

cliff-foot slope

coalfield

coarse clastic conglomerate

coarsening-upward An adjective, not a noun, e.g. ‘coarsening-upward unit’, but ‘a unit coarsens upward’

coastline Avoid; use ‘coast’. Exception is for phrases that describe the line on a map ‘the coastline on ROEBOURNE...’

co-fund

co-mingle

columnar-jointed lava flow

comagmatic

commonly Refers to something that is common in a spatial sense, e.g. ‘elongate and locally flat pebbles are commonly aligned’. Do not use ‘frequently’ (see **time words**)

company names Can omit Pty Ltd or NL in text after first mention if it does not create confusion, but in references need to cite correct name

compare Use ‘compare to’ when suggesting similarity of one thing to an unlike other, e.g. comparing a basalt to a sandstone. Use ‘compare with’ when estimating degrees of similarity between entities of the same kind, e.g. this granite with that granite. The book ‘Right Words’ by Stephen Murray-Smith puts it nicely ‘...in other words, use “compare with” if an argument is involved, “compare to” if no argument is intended.’

compass directions North-northeast, not north-north-east or NNE; also 285°, not N75°W (see also ‘dip and strike’). Do not use superfluous directions in terms such as ‘east–west dykes’, ‘northeast–southwest faults’, etc. The preference is ‘easterly trending dykes’ or ‘northeast-trending faults’. An exception is north–south compression, or tension. Avoid **hanging hyphens** if possible, e.g. ‘east-northeast- and northeast-dipping strata’ can be written ‘east-northeasterly and

	northeasterly dipping strata', but ... 'fine- to coarse-grained sandstone'. 'North-northeasterly trending' to avoid two or three hyphens. Use 'east-southeast to west-northwesterly trending'
comprise	This verb is never followed by the preposition 'of'; it is synonymous with 'consists of' and is not synonymous with 'contain' or 'include'. Correct usage of 'comprise' is in the sense that the whole comprises the parts not the other way round, e.g. 'The pegmatite comprises quartz, feldspar, mica, and tourmaline'
concave-up	
conglomeratic	Do not use 'conglomeritic'
conodont colour-alteration index	
conventional	Allowed, although avoid in the context of conventional hydrocarbons (do not use unconventional)
convex-up	
cooperation	
coordinates	See Latitude and longitude and MGA coordinates
coordination	
coprecipitate	
core (or drillcore)	Always use in the singular sense, not as a plural, e.g. 'The core contains free gold'
core library	The formal name of the Kalgoorlie core library is the 'JH (Joe) Lord Core Library'. Can use 'Joe Lord Core Library' in promotional and advertising material. The formal name for the Carlisle facility is the Perth Core Library
core-stone	
country rock	
CRC LEME	Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration
crop out	Avoid; use 'outcrop', or 'are exposed'

cross-beds, cross-bedding, cross-bedded	
crosscut	
cross-folds	
crossplot	
cross-section	
cross-lamination, cross-stratification	
crossed nicols/polars	But cross-polarized light; see plane-polarized light
crude oil sample	
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CSV file	Comma separated values file
currency	Use ‘A\$’ as recommended by the Reserve Bank of Australia; US\$
Curtin University	Replaces ‘Curtin University of Technology’
cutoff	
cyanobacteria	Prefer ‘microbial organisms’ — less specific term

D

dam site

data

Plural (i.e. ‘data are’, ‘These data show’)

databank

database

data points

dataset

date

Isotopically determined dates may include an uncertainty and be written thus, 2683 ± 7 Ma. An analytically determined estimate of age (applies to one analysis ‘point’ or sample, e.g. ‘The sample yielded a U–Pb date of 2870 Ma’). See **age**. Most dates are determined using isotopic systems, and the specific decay system involved should be written with an en dash (U–Pb date, ^{40}Ar – ^{39}Ar date). A forward slash is used to refer to specific isotope ratios ($^{238}\text{U}/^{206}\text{Pb}$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$)

dated

Use ‘dated at ...’ not ‘dated to ...’

DEC

Department of Environment and Conservation, now Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW)

decision maker

department, the

When referring to DMP

depth to basement

diamond drillcore

For core material obtained through a diamond drillbit; not ‘diamond core’

different

Use ‘different from’; do not use ‘different to’ or ‘different than’

dip and strike

Use 35° for dip (and specify the dip direction — 35°N); use 045° instead of 45°NE for strike

disk

distinguish between

Avoid; use ‘distinguish’

DMP

Do not use ‘the DMP’

domal

Avoid; use ‘domed’ or ‘domical’

dome-and-basin

domical-columnar

double letters

Use ‘focusing’, ‘faceted’, ‘targeted’ but ‘benefitting’,
‘formatting’

downdip

down-faulted (adj.)

downhole

download

down-plunge

downsection

downthrown

downwarp

DPaW

Department of Parks and Wildlife

drillbit

Can use ‘diamond bit’

drill chips

drillcore

drillhole

drillstring

drillsite

dry-gas generating

dumbbell

dunefield

dyke

E

e.g.

Early/Late v. Lower/Upper Early/Late are time terms, e.g. ‘...fossils of Early Jurassic age’ and are therefore associated with eras, periods and epochs. Lower/Upper are time-rock (chronostratigraphic) adjectives and used with systems, series and stages to indicate their place in the geological column. As the Glossary of Geology puts it, ‘Lower Jurassic rocks are of Early Jurassic age’. Upper Devonian (rocks or strata thereof) may well be missing in a succession, but the Late Devonian is never absent. That period must, of course, have existed, and in this example is represented by the hiatus. Use capitals only if the periods are formally divided (e.g. there is no Late Proterozoic and no Middle Cretaceous)

Earth

earthfill

Eastern Goldfields

But ‘northern Eastern Goldfields’ or ‘NE Goldfields’

Ediacaran Period

635–541 Ma, part of the Neoproterozoic

effect

A noun; do not confuse with the verb ‘affect’

EIS

Exploration Incentive Scheme

elements

Can use symbols (Au) as nouns but not as adjectives

email

en echelon

Do not italicize

end-member

end-product

enquire

Avoid; use ‘inquire’

ENS

Explanatory Notes System

Eoarchean

See **Archean**

aeolian

Not ‘aeolian’

epidotitic

Preferable to ‘epidotic’

EPIRB

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon

et al.	Preferable to ‘and others’; do not italicize
etc.	Avoid
even-textured	Do not use. Use ‘equigranular’
extremity	Avoid; use ‘limit/edge/end’

F

FAD	First appearance datum
farm out	
farm in	But ‘farm-in’ partner
farther	Refers to length or distance as the comparative of ‘far’. Use when describing physical distance, e.g. How much farther? See also further
feldspar	
feldspar-phyric	See also K-feldspar-phyric
feldspar porphyritic rhyolite	
felsic	A mnemonic adjective for feldspar + feldspathoid + quartz; applied to igneous rocks. Refers to the modal mineralogy only (cf. ‘mafic’, ‘ultramafic’; not a synonym for ‘acidic’ or ‘salic’)
ferromagnesian	Should apply only to minerals, not rocks (use ‘mafic’). Not synonymous with ‘mafic’
few	For countable entities, use ‘fewer’ not ‘less’
field guide	
field map	
fieldwork	
(Fig. 1)	Abbreviated as shown when in parentheses. Note ‘Figs’ has no full stop in text or in parentheses, e.g. ‘Figs 1, 2’
Figure 1	In full in body text and in figure captions (where it is followed by a full stop). When referring to a figure or table in another publication, this distinction is conveyed by using a lower case ‘f’ or ‘t’
fine-grained sandstone	But ‘The sandstone is fine grained’. See also very fine grained sandstone
fining-downward	Prefer ‘coarsening-upward’

fining-upward	But the succession fines upward
fining-upward sequence	(sedimentary successions more commonly fine upward than downward; prefer 'fining upward')
first vertical derivative	1VD
fission-track (adj.)	
flat-lying	
flood-out	
floodplain	
floodwater	
flow banding	But 'flow-banded lava'
flow breccia	
flow-foliated lava	
fluvio-deltaic (adj.)	
fluvioglacial	
fluviolacustrine	
focused, focusing	
fold belt	Lower case except where formalized, e.g. Edmund Fold Belt
follow-up (adj.)	'Follow-up sampling'
follow up (noun)	'Follow up was recommended'
footslope	
footwall	
for a period of	Avoid; use 'for'
fore-arc	
foredune	
foreset	
foreshore	
formatting	
found	Avoid 'The rocks are found at...'. Rephrase as 'The rocks are exposed at....' Or, for example, use 'defined', 'recorded', 'are', 'are developed'

four dimensional	4D
four-wheel drive	or 4WD
fracking	Avoid; use ‘hydraulic fracturing’
framework	
free-air gravity	
fresh rock	
freshwater	
front-end (attrib.)	
further	Means ‘to a great degree’, ‘additional’, or ‘additionally’. It refers to time or amount, e.g. I would like further information. See also farther

G

gamma-ray log

GA

Geoscience Australia

Ga

Abbreviation for years $\times 10^9$ (giga annus or billion years). Can also be used to refer to an interval of time

gas chromatography

But ‘gas-chromatography parameters’

gasfield

gas-prone rock

gave rise to

Avoid; use ‘led to’ or ‘caused’

GDP

Gross domestic product

generally

Refers to something that is extensive but not universal, e.g. ‘The area is generally covered by colluvium’. In scientific writing, the term is superfluous or can be replaced with a more specific term, e.g. ‘commonly’ or ‘typically’

geoelectric

geographic names

For those ending in a possessive ‘s’, the apostrophe is usually not used. The ‘s’ may, or may not, be dropped depending on local usage. For topographic and general geographic names, the plurals are upper case, e.g. the Robe and Ashburton Rivers, Byro and Landor Homesteads

geological

Not ‘geologic’ (in most cases)

geological names

Where two or more formal geological names with the same generic element are combined in the same expression, the pluralized element remains upper case, e.g. the *Parmelia* and *Yarragadee* Formations, the *Darling* and *Urella* Faults. When *Volcanics* is used as a formation name, although it is singular in sense, it causes less confusion and reads better if used as a plural, e.g. ‘The *Table Hill Volcanics* are...’ or rephrase as ‘The rocks of the *Table Hill Volcanics* are...’

GeoMap.WA (legal trade name)	A GSWA-built desktop GIS application to visualize, interrogate and print geoscience and resource information. Spell in full for legal trade name
Geoscience Australia	GA (formerly Australian Geological Survey Organisation, AGSO; and Bureau of Mineral Resources, BMR)
GeoVIEW.WA (legal trade name)	Online GIS mapping tool to visualize, interrogate, search and print geoscience and resource information. Spell in full for legal trade name
giga cubic metres	Not cubic gigametres – Gm ³
GIS	Geographic information system
glacial rocks	Not ‘glacials’
glacigene	Not ‘glaciogene’
glacigenic	Not ‘glaciogenic’
glaciodeltaic	
glaciofluvial	Avoid; use ‘fluvioglacial’
glaciomarine	
gnamma hole	Aboriginal term for ‘rockhole’
GOGI	gas–oil generation index
gold mine	
GPS	Global Positioning System
grabens	Plural of ‘graben’
graded bedding	
grain size	But ‘grain-size interval’
granite	A plutonic rock consisting essentially of quartz (between 20 and 60%), alkali feldspar, and sodic plagioclase in variable amounts with mica and hornblende or both. Use ‘monzogranite’ or ‘syenogranite’ for specific QAPF compositions
granite–greenstone terrane	With en dash

granitic rock	Used for rock of general granitic composition and texture; not synonymous with ‘granite’
granitoid	Do not use. The term is ambiguous because in the IUGS scheme it can be used as a synonym for ‘granite’, or in a more restricted sense to rocks ranging from alkali granite to tonalite
greater than	>100 (no space)
greenfields	
greenstone belt	
greenschist	
greenschist facies conditions	
grey-scale	
greywacke	Avoid; use ‘wacke’ or more specific terms, e.g. ‘lithic wacke’, ‘feldspathic wacke’, ‘quartz wacke’
groundwater	
growth fault	
GSA	Geological Society of Australia
GSWA	In references, use ‘Geological Survey of Western Australia’ (not ‘Western Australia Geological Survey’). Not ‘the GSWA’
gypseous	Resembling gypsum
gypsiferous	Containing gypsum

H

halfway

hand-sorted

hand specimen

hangingwall

hardcopy

hardpan

hard-rock aggregate

has proved to be Avoid; use ‘is’

have been found to be Avoid; use ‘can be’

headwaters

heat-flow data

heavy mineral sands

heavy mineral sands mine Institutionalized phrase, no hyphenation

hematite

herringbone

high-grade (adj.) ‘High-grade ore’

high field strength elements Referred to as HFSE

high heat flow

high-Mg basalt Only use if chemistry is known, otherwise use ‘komatiitic basalt’

high tide

high-tide mark

high-water mark

hillcrest

hole-deviation data

Holocene Replaces the term ‘Recent’

Homestead Capitalize for proper noun, e.g. ‘Byro Homestead’ and ‘Byro and Lander Homesteads’

homogeneous

host rock

however

Used where the simpler ‘although’ is meant, e.g. ‘There is an abundance of epidote, however, other evidence of metamorphism has not been found’ is wrong. The author means ‘There is an abundance of epidote, although other evidence of metamorphism has not been found’. Recommend ‘although’ in preference to ‘but’. Use of ‘however’ will carry a connotation of ‘nevertheless’, in which case it will either start a sentence and be followed by a comma (However, ...) or be found mid-sentence, still followed by a comma, but now preceded by a semicolon (...; however, ...)

**hydrocarbon-generation
history**

**hyphenating compound
words**

Words such as ‘phenocryst’ and ‘megacryst’ when used together should not be abbreviated. ‘Phenocrysts and megacrysts are found in ...’ Similarly, rather than ‘monzo- to syenogranite’, use the words in full, e.g. ‘monzogranite to syenogranite’

I

ice sheet

i.e.

ill-defined (adj.)

immediately

Use carefully as can have a time connotation. When in doubt, use alternatives such as ‘just’ or ‘directly’ ‘...just north of Sandstone’ or ‘...directly overlying the Cooya Pooya Dolerite’

imply/infer

To imply is to signify or to suggest; to infer is to draw a conclusion from

in agreement with

Avoid; use ‘agree’

in contrast

Avoid; use ‘by contrast’

in-depth (adj.)

inequigranular

infill

information

Singular, e.g. ‘The information is ...’

infracrustal

infrared

in-house (adj.)

inquire

Not ‘enquire’

in situ

institutionalized phrase

A set phrase commonly used in the mining industry, e.g. heavy mineral sands, heavy mineral sands mine

in the vicinity of

Avoid; use ‘near’, ‘about’ or ‘proximal to’

interchannel

interdune

interfinger

intermediate

Adjective used in igneous petrology for a rock with $52 < \text{SiO}_2 < 63$ wt% (cf. ‘acidic’, ‘basic’, ‘ultrabasic’). Do not pair with ‘felsic’ or ‘mafic’

internet

interpretive

intertidal

in-text (adj.)

into and in to

Slightly different meanings, e.g. ‘We turned into the carpark’ and ‘We went in to the exhibition’. See **on to** and **onto**

intracratonic

intraformational

intragrain

intra-oceanic arc

IOCG

Stands for ‘iron oxide–copper–gold’. Write in full in the first instance; subsequent instances, use ‘IOCG’

iron formation

Not hyphenated, except when preceded by ‘banded’, ‘granular’ or ‘siliceous’

iron ore, iron ore deposit

Institutionalized phrase, no hyphenation

iron ore mining

iron ore railways

iron oxide minerals

is (are) characterized by

Avoid; use ‘has’ or ‘resembles’

island arc

-ize/-ise

Use ‘z’. Some exceptions to this are advertise, advise, apprise, analyse, comprise, compromise, demise, despise, devise, enterprise, excise, exercise, improvise, incise, premise, revise, realise, supervise, surmise, surprise, televise, verbalise, otherwise, precise

J

jigsaw-fit texture(s)

JORC Code

The Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) sets out minimum standards, recommendations, and guidelines for public reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources, and Ore Reserves. The first edition was published in 1989 and the JORC Code is revised and updated periodically. See **mineral resources** and **ore reserves**

JORC-compliant

Said of mineral resources or reserves; do not use even if original references used this term

judgement

**Jurassic–Cretaceous
extension**

With en dash

K

K-feldspar,

K-feldspar-phyric

ka

Thousand years abbreviation in ‘date’ form. See also **Ga, Ma**

kankar

kaolinized/kaolinitized

Use ‘kaolinized’ when rock is strongly altered to clay broadly referred to as kaolin (may be mixture of related clay types); use ‘kaolinitized’ to mean alteration (e.g. of alkali feldspar) to specific clay mineral (kaolinite); map legend narratives typically use ‘kaolinized’

keywords

The author and project manager must ensure that correct and appropriate keywords are included in a manuscript. Editing and Publishing ensures adherence to the Australian Geoscience, Minerals and Petroleum Thesaurus (GeMPeT). Find online at <www.dmp.wa.gov.au/gempet>. Broadterms (general rather than narrower concepts) are added in Pubstats after publication to enable internet users to search the online catalogue

Kimberley region

km²

km-thick unit

Hyphen should appear between the unit and the adjective, e.g. ‘10 km-thick unit’, not ‘10-km thick unit’

L

LAD	Last appearance datum
lakebed	
lake floor	
Landgate	The Western Australian land information authority (formerly Department of Land Information)
landmass	
Landsat TM	Landsat Thematic Mapper
landslide	
land use	Also 'land use planning', except where the sense is affected by the lack of a hyphen
lapilli tuff	
large-scale (adj.)	
lateritization	
latitude and longitude	Of a point: latitude 22°S, longitude 117°E; of an area: latitudes 22°S and 23°S, and longitudes 117°E and 118°E. Do not use decimals when referring to latitudes and longitudes, e.g. use 22°30'S, not 22.5°S'; 22°47'30"S, 116°21'40"E. However, when extracting from WAROX the decimal form is used (93.27365°E)
layered mafic intrusions	
layout	
lens cap	
lens-shaped, lenticular	Avoid; use 'lensoid' or 'lensic'
lesser	Use 'lesser amounts of' plagioclase, rather than 'lesser plagioclase' (which suggests it is inferior in some way)
lie/lay	'Lay' something down, people and rocks lie down by themselves; for rocks use 'lie' (present), 'lay' (past), 'lain' (past participle)
limesand	

limited	Avoid; use ‘confined’ or ‘restricted’
lithology	To quote from Glover (1992), AIG Handbook 1 ‘Lithology, like petrography, means the description or study of rocks, on the basis of their minerals, mineral interrelationships and other features. Lithology is used at the scale of outcrop or hand specimen, whereas petrography is generally applied to discussion involving thin sections.’ Alternatives are ‘rock type’, and ‘sample’, depending on the context, not ‘rocks’
located	Avoid (superfluous), e.g. The homestead is on the cliff
low-energy environment	
lower greenschist facies metamorphism	
low field strength elements	
low-grade (adj.)	
lower level platform	
low-water spring tide	
Luna rille	
lutetium–hafnium	With en dash

M

Ma	Abbreviation for million years (mega annus) when referring to a date. Also used to refer to an interval of time
mafic	A mnemonic adjective for dark-coloured igneous rocks composed of minerals rich in iron and magnesium. ‘Mafic’ refers to the modal mineralogy (cf. ‘felsic’, ‘ultramafic’; not a synonym for ‘femic’ or ‘basic’). Do not use for minerals (use ‘ferromagnesian’); only for rocks. Not synonymous with ‘ferromagnesian’
mafic–ultramafic	With en dash
major element analysis	
man-made	
mantle source component	
mantle source region	Add hyphen if there is an extra modifier, e.g. ‘depleted-mantle source region’
map sheet	
mean sea level	
medium-bedded (adj.)	
megacrystic	Hyphenate with phenocryst mineralogy, e.g. ‘feldspar-megacrystic granodiorite’
MERIWA	Minerals and Energy Research Institute of Western Australia (now Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia)
Mesoarchean	See Archean
Mesoproterozoic	Instead of Middle Proterozoic; see Proterozoic subdivisions
meta	Prefix — forms one word for all metamorphosed lithologies (e.g. ‘metarhyolite’, ‘metagabbro’) except when prefix is followed by a vowel (e.g. ‘meta-arkose’). ‘Metapsammite’ and ‘metapelite’ are not acceptable (see psammite and pelite) or where there is an additional qualifier, so ‘metamorphosed quartz gabbro’ not ‘metaquartz gabbro’, ‘meta-igneous’

metasediment	Use ‘metasedimentary rock’
metre/meter	Use ‘metre’ for unit of distance; use ‘meter’ to refer to any device that measures something (also ‘diameter’ and ‘perimeter’)
MGA coordinates	Convert all local or old AMG grids into GDA94 (MGA) coordinates, using easting and northing coordinates. There are no spaces or commas in the coordinates. MGA coordinates should always be used in brackets, not as a locality name in a sentence, e.g. ‘The unit outcrops 2 km northeast of White Springs Well (MGA 720720E 7704155N)’ not ‘The unit outcrops at MGA 720720E 7704155N’
mg/L	Not mgL ⁻¹ (milligrams per litre)
mid-	Always hyphenated with years, e.g. ‘mid-2001’; also when modifying other terms, such as ‘mid-amphibolite facies’
mid-amphibolite facies conditions	
Mid West region	
migmatize	
million years	Preferable to 10 ⁶ years, in ‘date’ form is Ma (mega annus; see also Ga, ka). See billion years
mine	Do not use upper case M for named mine, e.g. Mount Belches mine, New Celebration mine (or just ‘New Celebration’) unless formalized by mine owner
mineable, mineability	
MINEDEX	DMP’s mines and mineral deposits information database. When quoting estimates of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves from MINEDEX, please ensure that the original source of the estimate(s) is included. Remember that MINEDEX is a database that is a compilation of estimates prepared by industry, and resource or reserve estimates should not be attributed in such a way that infers the primary compilation was done by MINEDEX, GSWA, or the department. See JORC Code, mineral resources and ore reserves

mineral assemblages	Use an en dash between mineral names and in brackets for minerals that are only present in some samples, e.g. quartz–plagioclase–mica(–tourmaline)
mineral/petroleum exploration well	
mineral resources	Under the JORC Code, Mineral Resources are subdivided, in order of increasing geological confidence, into Inferred, Indicated, and Measured categories, and any reporting of Mineral Resources must specify one or more of these categories, as estimations. The words ‘ore’ and ‘reserves’ must not be used in stating mineral resource estimates as they imply technical feasibility and economic viability. See JORC Code and ore reserves
mineralization, mineralized	Use ‘occurrence’ or ‘deposit’ for new mines
mine site	
<i>Mining Act 1978, the</i>	
mis-ties	
Moho	Short form of ‘Mohorovičić discontinuity’
monomictic	Does not mean the same as ‘oligomictic’; both terms are needed, also ‘polymictic’
most	Avoid; use ‘the majority of’
MoU	Do not use ‘MOU’
Mount/Mt	Use ‘Mount’ in text where this is meant, to avoid confusion with the abbreviation for ‘megatonnes’ (Mt). Acceptable to use ‘Mt’ in tables. Leave as ‘Mt’ if official term
MORB	Mid-ocean ridge basalt
MORB-normalized	
movement (structural)	Used for an event recognized locally, whereas transpressional or extensional events are usually recognized regionally; terms have changed over time as more data is collected
MRIWA	Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (formerly MERIWA)

N

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration

native title

nationwide

nearshore

Neoarchean See also **Archean**

Neoproterozoic Instead of ‘Late (or Upper) Proterozoic’; see **Proterozoic subdivisions**

no. Abbreviation for ‘number’

nonbreaking

nondefining

nondeposition

non-GSWA

non-source-rock sample

non-vegetated

**normalized trace
element pattern**

northwest

north-northwest

North Pole dome

North West region

North West Shelf

number Abbreviation is no. (see **no.** above) except when part of a formal name, e.g. ‘Bore No. 2’. When using numbers such as ‘2nd edition’ or ‘8th Geological Convention’, do not use superscripts; write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th. Default settings in MS Word automatically superscript these, so you will have to undo this or change your settings

numerals

Numbers with four digits in body text should have no space, e.g. 1966 m, not 1 966 m, 2096 Ma not 2 096 Ma. However, use a space in tables, and for numbers greater than 9999 in text, e.g. 13 462. Numbers with five or more digits have a space 23 420, 6 740 332. Use numerals for numbers over 'nine' in text. No space is used when citing eastings and northings

O

observed	Redundant in most cases; rephrase
occasionally	Usually means ‘locally’; can use ‘in places’ (see time words). Can use ‘commonly’
occurs	This term is overused. Use a more appropriate verb: is, is exposed, is present, outcrops, be, exist, appear(s), pervade, happen, adjacent, forms, consists of, lie(s), overlies, intergrown with, is identified, is encountered, occupies, extends and constitutes
often	Use only for expressions relating to time, e.g. ‘Phenocrysts are often corroded’ should be changed to ‘Many phenocrysts are corroded’ (see time words)
oil-generating potential	See petroleum-generating potential
oil-generative window	
oilfield	
oil-to-oil correlation	
oligomictic	Does not mean the same as ‘monomictic’; both terms are needed, also ‘polymictic’
ongoing	
online	
onlaps	
onshore, offshore	
on-site	
on to and onto	Slightly different meanings, e.g. ‘We drove on to the beach’ (i.e. in that direction) and ‘We drove onto the beach’ (i.e. into contact with it; see into and in to)
opaline	Use with silica (opaline silica) and chalcedony (opaline chalcedony); avoid ‘real opal’
opalized	Avoid ‘opalized’; refers to alteration of rock or mineral to, or replacement by, cryptocrystalline silica
opencut	

open-file (adj.)

openhole

openpit

orebody

ore reserves

Under the JORC Code, an Ore Reserve is the economically mineable part of a Measured or Indicated Mineral Resource, including dilution and losses that may occur during mining. Any reporting of Ore Reserves must specify one or both of the ore reserve categories of ‘Probable’ or ‘Proved’, as estimations. See **JORC Code** and **mineral resources**

organic-rich shale

organization

Referred to in the singular (‘it’, ‘its’, not ‘they’, ‘their’)

orient, oriented

Avoid; use ‘orientate’, ‘orientated’

orogeny

Plural is ‘orogenies’

outcrop

May be used as a noun (The outcrop...) or verb (...outcrops at...). Can also use ‘exposure’ (see **crop out**)

overestimate

overlie, overlying

Superposition of units; not ‘overlay’, ‘overlying’

P

paleo	Prefix; no hyphenation
paleo heat flow	
Paleoarchean	See Archean
Paleocene	
paleochannel	
Paleogene	
Paleoproterozoic	
paleovalley	
Paleozoic	
parallel to	e.g. ‘The gneiss unit is parallel to the overlying foliated eclogite’
parallel with	e.g. ‘We can draw a close parallel with another example.’ Avoid ‘paralleling’, ‘paralleled’
part-way	
PDF	Portable document format
pelite, pelitic	Metamorphic rock term referring to siltstone/ mudstone protolith. The prefix ‘meta’ is not necessary and pelite is not acceptable as a sedimentary term. Do not use as a noun (pelite). See also psammite , psammitic
percent	Use the symbol % if attached to a number, e.g. 50%, not 50 percent, <5%
Permo-Carboniferous/ Permo-Triassic	Avoid; use ‘Permian–Carboniferous’ or ‘Permian–Triassic’ or the specific Series or Stage names
personal communication	Abbreviated to ‘written comm.’ including initials and date in parenthesis, e.g. (AF Trendall, 1989, written comm., 24 April)
pertaining to	Avoid; use ‘about’
Perth Metropolitan region	
PESA	Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia

petroleum-generating potential	See oil-generating potential
petroleum supersystem	For ‘Larapintine Petroleum Supersystem’
PGC	Pyrolysis-gas chromatography
PGE	Platinum group elements (not PGEs)
PGM	Sometimes used as the abbreviation for platinum group metals. Use ‘platinum group elements’ (PGE)
PhD	Also MSc, BSc, DipEd
phosphorus	
photo-interpretation	
photo-lineament	
photomosaic	
photo-pattern	
Pilbara region	
pinch-out(s)	
pipeline	
plagioclase-phyric	
plagioclase-porphyritic andesite	
planar-laminated (adj.)	
plane-polarized light	
plateaus	
platy	
pmd*CRC	Predictive mineral discovery Cooperative Research Centre
podsolized	
policy maker	
porcelaneous	
porphyritic	Hyphenated with phenocryst mineralogy, e.g. ‘feldspar-porphyritic monzogranite’

possessive ‘s’	‘Jones’s’ (singular), ‘All the Joneses’ houses’ (plural), ‘geologists’ work’ (plural)
post-date	
post-depositional	
postgraduate	
post-wellhead	
pothole	
ppb	
ppm	
Precambrian	
pre-competitive	
pre-date	Not ‘predate’ which means ‘to hunt and feed on prey’
predominant	Avoid; use ‘chief’, ‘main’, ‘major’, ‘prime’ or ‘principal’
pre-mining	
pre-1914	But ‘pre-World War I’, ‘pre-Mount Roe Basalt’ (preferably rephrase)
prerequisite	
primitive mantle source	
primitive mantle values	
primitive mantle-normalized trace element plot	
primordial mantle-normalized PGE plot	
program	
Proterozoic subdivisions	Use ‘Paleoproterozoic’ instead of ‘Early’ (or Lower Proterozoic’, ‘Mesoproterozoic’ instead of ‘Middle Proterozoic’, ‘Neoproterozoic’ instead of ‘Late (or Upper) Proterozoic’. But these are not synonymous.

Q

quantity of	Avoid
quartz arenite	
quartzite	Metamorphic term (orthoquartzite); not to be used for strongly cemented, metamorphosed quartz sandstone
quartzofeldspathic	
quartz-phyric	
Quaternary	Use this term to encompass the Holocene and Pleistocene; younger than, but not part of, the Neogene
query (?)	Should precede doubtful entity, e.g. ‘?Permian’, ‘?garnet’
quotation marks	Use single quotation marks, e.g. ‘quote’. Double quotation marks should be used for quotes within quotes

R

rainwater

range

When ‘range’ is used, the prepositions ‘from’ and ‘to’ must also be used. The use of ‘range’ requires two limits so don’t write ‘ranges up to...’. If only the upper limit is stated then use ‘reaches a maximum of..’ or ‘is as much as...’

rapakivi feldspars

Or ‘rapakivi granite’ (no need for ‘rapakivi-textured’)

ratios

In the text, ratios should be expressed with a colon (4:1), not spelt out (4 to 1; four to one). Also, be aware that a ratio is not synonymous with a fraction. The following usage should be avoided ‘Mg/(Mg+Fe) ratios range from 0.51 to 0.58’ (here the term ‘values’ would be better)

re

Prefix generally not hyphenated (but see **re-sorted**)

Recent

Avoid; use ‘Holocene’

redbeds

REE

Rare earth elements (singular and plural); avoid ‘REEs’

referred to as

Avoid; use ‘called’ or ‘known as’

relic/relict

These terms are not synonymous. Refer to the AGI Glossary of Geology for correct usage

represent

Avoid if possible. Commonly used in the sense of ‘Something represents an extension of ...’ or ‘This facies represents deposition in a fluvial setting’. Most geological usage is simply ‘is’ or ‘is interpreted as’

re-sort

When the meaning is ‘to sort again’

resources and reserves

See **JORC Code**, **mineral resources**, and **ore reserves**

retro-arc

reworking

ripple marks

rock-chip sampling

rock codes

All rock codes in text should be italicized and in parentheses. However, rock codes on figures should appear as on the map. New regolith codes are italicized anyway, but the context in text will define whether it is a rock or regolith code. Rock codes should not be used as nouns in the text

Rock-Eval, Rock-Eval pyrolysis

rock-extract samples

rockfill

rockhole

rockslide

rock type

Royalties for Regions

rubidium–strontium

rudite

Avoid; use ‘conglomerate’ or ‘breccia’

runoff

S

safe haven

salic/sialic

Former refers in a general way to Si–Al-rich minerals; latter refers to parts of the Earth comprising dominantly felsic minerals, such as continental crust

salt lake

salt pan

saltwater

sand dune

sandplain

S–C fabrics

Use en dash for S–C (with upper case);
S = schistosity; C= cisaillement (Fr. for ‘shear’)

scales (comparison of)

Smaller scale maps show more area of ground on the same amount of paper. Thus, 1:250 000 is a smaller scale than 1:100 000 (the scale is actually a fraction and 1/250 000 is less than 1/100 000)

seabed

sea floor

sea-floor spreading

sea level

sea-level changes (attrib.)

sea stacks

seawater

sections

Cross-sections should be presented as viewed from the south, except where they trend between 357° and 0°, when they should be presented as viewed from the east. East or north will therefore be at the right-hand end of a section

sedex-type deposit

Sedimentary exhalative mineral deposit

sediments

Use only if unconsolidated; otherwise use ‘sedimentary rocks’

sedimentary succession	Not ‘sedimentary sequence’, as ‘sequence’ is commonly understood to be used in a sequence stratigraphic context
self-contained petroleum system	
semi	Prefix most often used without hyphen
semipelitic	
semiprecious	
sequence	Avoid; use ‘succession’
shale gas	
shallow-marine (attrib.)	
shallow-water (attrib.)	
shelf deposit	See also shelves
shaly	
sheet flood	
sheetflow	
sheetwash	
shelves	
shoreface	
shoreline	
shotpoint	
SHRIMP	Sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe
SI units	Separated by a space from the numerical value (with no full stops), except for symbols for degree, degree Celsius, minute, and second, e.g. 20 l, 12 km, 22 m, but 112°, 35°C, 22°30’S
silicic	Avoid; use ‘acidic’
siliciclastic	
situated	Avoid (superfluous), e.g. The homestead is on the cliff
slaty	

small-scale (adj.)

soft-sediment deformation

**source-rock facies
classification**

source-rock potential

source-rock sample

southwest

Southeast Asia

**South West Division/
region/Terrane**

South West Highway

South West Mineral Field

spillway

**spinifex-textured
komatiites**

‘Spinifex-textured komatiites’ but ‘coarse olivine (sheath)-spinifex textures’; ‘pyroxene-spinifex textures’; ‘olivine spinifex-textured komatiite’

standalone

State

Use when referring to a State, e.g. Western Australia, New South Wales

statewide

Station

Capitalize for pastoral stations and railway stations

straight-crested (adj.)

strandline

stratabound

stratigraphic names usage

Superseded names should be defined as such in their first usage in a document, and then placed in inverted commas thereafter wherever it may be ambiguous as to whether they are currently accepted or not (see the Chief Geoscientist and Terrane Custodians Intranet page for the latest rock codes list and the Geoscience Australia stratigraphic units database at <www.ga.gov.au/oracle/stratnames_info.jsp>)

stratotype

structural and tectonic events

All terms of structural and tectonic events with specific names should be capitalized, e.g. ‘Prices Creek Movement’, ‘Fitzroy Movement’, ‘Meda Transpression’, ‘Capricorn Orogeny’, ‘Musgrave Orogeny’, exception is ‘Gondwana break up’

stubby

Do not use. When referring to crystal shape, use ‘equant’

sub

Prefix generally not hyphenated, e.g. ‘subaerial’, ‘subangular’, ‘subaqueous’, ‘subcontinental lithosphere mantle (SCLM)’, ‘subdivide’, ‘subglacial’, ‘subgroup’, ‘submillimetre-scale’, ‘subtidal’, ‘subrounded’, ‘subduction’ (but ‘sub-basin’)

subcrop

The area within which a formation is directly beneath an unconformity; a ‘subsurface outcrop’. Does not mean ‘to exist in the subsurface’, nor a ‘poor surface exposure’

subparallel

sulfate

sulfide

sulfur

sulphur

Avoid; use ‘sulfur’

supergroup

supercontinent

superficial

supersede

supracrustal

surficial

syn

Prefix generally not hyphenated, e.g. ‘syntectonic’, ‘synmetamorphic’, ‘syndepositional’

T

Table	Capitalized when referring to, or captioning, tabulation (except in reference to ‘other works’). See also Figure
targeted, targeting	
taxonomic nomenclature	
TD	Total depth
TDS	Total dissolved solids
tectonic units	Only the tectonic units shown on the most recent Tectonic units of Western Australia map should be used as the GSWA standard for tectonic units. Only valid units in ENS should be used
tectono-magmatic	
tectono-metamorphic	
tectono-stratigraphic	
tectono-thermal	
tenses	‘Authors concluded’; ‘the figures show’, i.e. past tense for authors; present tense for book, map, figure
terrain	A tract or region of the Earth’s surface considered as a physical feature, an ecological environment, or a site of some planned human activity
terrane	A fault-bounded body of rock of regional extent, characterized by a geological history different from that of contiguous bodies of rock
Tertiary	Not currently recommended by IUGS. Use Cenozoic, Paleogene or Neogene, or more specific subdivisions of these depending on age control, unless use of ‘Tertiary’ is warranted by context
the department	When referring to DMP
the effect of	Avoid
thin-bedded	But ‘thinly bedded’
thin section	But ‘thin-section view’
three dimensional	Use ‘3D’

time frame	
time span	Within a single stratigraphic division write ‘Middle–Late Devonian’ (not Mid–Late or Middle to Late)
time scale	
time window	
time words	Words such as ‘usually’, ‘frequently’, ‘often’, ‘while’, ‘since’, ‘occasionally’ denote time and can be confusing if used to denote place or state. Rephrase the sentence to avoid use. Examples such as always (everywhere), frequently, often (commonly, many of), now and then (here and there), occasionally (locally), since (inasmuch as), sometimes (in places, some of), usually (commonly, most of), when (where), while (although, whereas). Use ‘typically’ instead of ‘generally’
TM	Transverse magnetic
TMI	Total magnetic intensity
to be/to do	Can be omitted
tonnage	
topographic names	See geological names
topset	
total of	Can be omitted
towards	Avoid; use ‘toward’
townsite	
township	
trace element analysis	
trace element-enriched	
trackways	As in ‘arthropod trackways’
trademarks	The use of registered trademarks is not encouraged. Crown Law has advised that there is no need to include symbols such as ©, ®, or TM after company or product names
traditional owner	

TSF

tufflava

typically

Refers to something that applies to most members of a class, e.g. 'the granite is typically medium grained'. See **time words**

U

ultrabasic	Adjective used in igneous petrology for rocks with <45 wt% SiO ₂ (cf. ‘acidic’, ‘basic’, ‘intermediate’). Not a synonym for ‘ultramafic’
ultra-high-grade metamorphism	
ultra-high temperature	
ultramafic	Said of an igneous rock when mafic minerals total >90% of the modal mineralogy; not a synonym for ‘ultrabasic’
un	Prefix generally not hyphenated
underexplored	
units of measurement	Space between numbers and their units, e.g. 15 km, not 15km (but...15% and 15°C). For GSWA petroleum reports, original units will be metric; retain all significant figures in oil and gas estimates, ‘9.6982 billion litres’
unconventional* gas	*Do not use. Where a collective term is to be used, refer to ‘shale and tight gas’. Where it is more appropriate to be specific, refer to shale oil, onshore activities. When discussing hydraulic fracture stimulation, the term ‘fracking’ can be included, for example: ‘For shale and tight gas, the rock formations need to undergo hydraulic fracture stimulation (also known as fracking) to release the gas and enable recovery.’ However, try to avoid using the term ‘fracking’
underestimate	
unnamed	
U–Pb dating	
updip	
upfaulted	
upthrown	
upper-level platform	

upward-shoaling

Uniform resource locator. Display in the style of <www.dmp.wa.gov.au>. Do not use 'http://'

United States (adjective and noun)

‘Usually’ has a temporal connotation for something that is customary or regular but not universal (it should not be confused with generally), e.g. ‘cyclones and thunderstorms usually occur between November and April’. See **time words**

Avoid; prefer ‘used’

The University of Western Australia

V

valley-fill deposits

vein banding

vermin-proof fence

very fine grained sandstone Not hyphenated because the fine is itself modified by an adverb

vicinity of Avoid. Sometimes used unnecessarily for ‘about’, ‘proximal’ or ‘nearly’. See also ‘in the vicinity of’

vitritine reflectance data

VMS Volcanogenic massive sulfide

VHMS Volcanic-hosted massive sulfide

volcanicity

volcaniclastic

volcanics Avoid; use ‘volcanic rocks’. See **geological names**

volcanism

volcanogenic

volcanology

volcano-sedimentary

vug, vuggy

W

wacke	A clastic sedimentary rock with >10% matrix. Use instead of 'greywacke'
WACHEM	DMP's geochemistry database
WA:ERA	Western Australian Energy Research Alliance
wallrock	
WAMEX	DMP's Western Australian mineral exploration index
WAPIMS	DMP's Western Australian petroleum and geothermal information management system
WARIS	Western Australia Regional Initiatives Scheme
WAROX	DMP's Western Australian field observation database
washout	
WASM	Western Australian School of Mines
water bore	
watercourse	
water-cut	
water depth	
waterhole	
waterlevel	
watermark	
watertable	
water well	
wave-cut platform	
web	
web-based (adj.)	
web browser	
website	
well	Common petroleum industry nomenclature (see AGI Glossary of Geology); drillhole also acceptable for petroleum manuscripts and maps

wellbeing

well-defined (adj.)

wellhead

well-rounded (adj.)

west Pilbara

Western Australia

Not ‘West Australia’ or ‘West Australian’.
Write in full

whether or not

Usually can be shortened to ‘whether’

while/whilst

Avoid ‘whilst’. For clarity use ‘while’ to mean ‘at the time that’, but not to mean ‘although’, ‘whereas’, ‘and’ or ‘but’

whole-rock geochemistry

whose

Formerly considered to be necessarily personal; permissible in phrases such as ‘. . . those basalts whose MgO contents are 10%’

wind-blown sand

wireline

with the result that

Avoid; use ‘so that’

worldwide

written communication

To be obtained and used instead of personal communication. In text mention as (FH Clark, 2002, written comm., 24 April)

wt% (no space)

For ‘weight percent’, e.g. 48 wt% (space between value and unit)

X

X-ray

More spelling and other useful stuff

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal dotted lines on a light gray background.

Further details of geological publications and maps produced by the Geological Survey of Western Australia can be obtained by contacting:
Information Centre
Department of Mines and Petroleum
100 Plain Street
EAST PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6004
Phone: (08) 9222 3459 Fax: (08) 9222 3444
www.dmp.wa.gov.au/GSWApublications