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**Terminology work and terminology  
science — Vocabulary**

*Travail terminologique et science de la terminologie — Vocabulaire*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Language and Terminology*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Principles and methods*.

This document cancels and replaces ISO 1087-1:2000, which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- most of the terminological entries have been reviewed to reflect the current state of the art;
- some terminological entries from the former ISO 1087-2:2000 (withdrawn) have been incorporated.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The main purpose of this document is to provide a systematic description of the concepts related to terminology work and terminology science and to clarify the use of the terms in this field. This document is addressed to anyone involved in terminology work. In particular, its target group comprises standardizers, terminologists, other individuals involved in terminology work, terminology users as well as researchers and professionals dealing with terminology science and/or natural language processing.

The terminological entries in this document are listed in a systematic order under a number of general headings.

The layout follows the directions given in ISO 10241-1. Thus, the elements of an entry appear in the following order:

- entry number
- preferred term(s)
- admitted term(s)
- abbreviated form(s)
- definition
- example(s)
- note(s)

The terminological entries hereunder have been formatted according to ISO 10241-1, which stipulates the current ISO rules for the presentation of terminology standards. Specifically, in the examples and notes in this document, terms (including appellations) and proper names are indicated by double quotation marks, whereas objects, concepts, properties, characteristics, and types of characteristics are indicated by single quotation marks. This markup is intended to facilitate the distinction between references to the three terminological levels and other text throughout this document.

This new revision of ISO 1087 has been prepared in accordance with the principles and methods of terminology work described in ISO 704:2009.

The alphabetical index includes preferred and admitted terms.

[Annex A](#) gives concept diagrams and concept models that illustrate the relations between concepts described in the various entries of [Clause 3](#).

It should be noted that most examples are specific to the English language in the English version and to the French language in the French version.



# Terminology work and terminology science — Vocabulary

## 1 Scope

This document establishes basic terms and definitions for terminology work and terminology science. It does not include terms and definitions that are specific to computer applications in terminology work.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1 Reality and language

#### 3.1.1 object

anything perceivable or conceivable

Note 1 to entry: Objects can be material (e.g. 'engine', 'sheet of paper', 'diamond'), immaterial (e.g. 'conversion ratio', 'project plan') or imagined (e.g. 'unicorn', 'scientific hypothesis').

#### 3.1.2 extension

set of all of the *objects* (3.1.1) to which a *concept* (3.2.7) corresponds

#### 3.1.3 property

feature of an *object* (3.1.1)

EXAMPLE 1 'Being made of wood' as a property of a given 'table'.

EXAMPLE 2 'Belonging to person A' as a property of a given 'pet'.

EXAMPLE 3 'Having been formulated by Einstein' as a property of the equation 'E = mc<sup>2</sup>'.

EXAMPLE 4 'Being compassionate' as a property of a given 'person'.

EXAMPLE 5 'Having a given cable' as a property of a given 'computer mouse'.

Note 1 to entry: One or more objects can have the same property.

#### 3.1.4 domain

subject field

field of special knowledge

Note 1 to entry: The borderlines and the granularity of a domain are determined from a purpose-related point of view. If a domain is subdivided, the result is again a domain.