RUSSELL'S PERSONAL SHORTHAND

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The use of a personal shorthand, including systematic abbreviations, is found in Russell's extensive, unpublished notes on lectures he attended in 1893–98, notes on such philosophers as Lotze, Leibniz, Frege and Meinong, and outlines for writings at any age. While special shorthand symbols are few, abbreviations are extensive and managed with raised letters, apostrophes and periods. The system is not always consistent, with some terms having a variety of forms. Context is crucial. His note-taking at lectures required speed and a flexible vocabulary, and he (and we) could easily generate new abbreviations and vary old ones on the fly. Acronyms are few although they include G. A., D. V. and B. V. M. His historical antecedents are unknown, but he had honed his use of a code in the "Greek Exercises" with Greek letters and vocabulary.

To abbreviate a singular term, under a single final letter that he superscripted, he would place a dot (or very abbreviated line), but would underline more than one raised letter. Since that is what is seen in the manuscripts, the distinction is followed here with the shorthand coming first to aid consultation. Less extensive lists appeared in *Papers* 1–6, without the dot or underlining of superscripted letters, and ordered by the expansions. An alternative way to expand Russell's shorthand is to italicize the expansion. E.g., "acc^{n}" would become "acc*eleration*". This approach would have the virtue of searchability, which the use of brackets ("acc[eleratio]n") lacks.

Russell's shorthand enabled him to write easily understood, literate notes and outlines, and he used the system into old age. An example is this note: "K's sol^{n} won't do, for moral ac^{n} is in t. ϕ phen^{al}. If, as ac^{ns} in t., they are det^{d}, don't get freedom, which L's soul req^{s}."[1] The CPBR lists are combined below, as is shorthand in the notes and marginalia on Leibniz and Lotze and (thanks to Andy Bone) letters to Ottoline Morrell. While the list assists in expanding Russell's shorthand, it may not work in reverse. Assume that singular forms of plurals drop the "s". Standard abbreviations and most names are excluded.

[1] "Kant's solution won't do, for moral action is in time and phenomenal. If, as actions in time, they are determined, don't get freedom, which Lotze's soul requires" (McTaggart's "Lectures on [the *Logic* of] Lotze", REC. ACQ. 385; original at Texas).

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ab^{t} about
abs. absolute
abs^{ly} absolutely
abs^{te} absolute
abs^{tr} abstract
abstr. abstract
ac^{ns} actions
acc^{n} acceleration
+^{n} addition
adj^{s} adjectives
adj^{ves} adjectives
analyt^{al} analytical
∠^{lar} angular
∠^{s} angles
A. R. Anharmonic Ratio
a. v. apparent variable
ap. var. apparent variable
app. vars. apparent variables
applic^{n} application
ar^{ic} arithmetic
Ar^{l}'s Aristotle's
Ar^{le} Aristotle
arg^{t} argument
Arist^{n} Aristotelian
arith^{c} arithmetic
arithm^{al} arithmetical
assump^{n} assumption
astron^{al} astronomical
attrac^{n} attraction
ax. axiom
ax^{es} axioms
ax^{s} axioms
∵ because
B. V. M. Blessed Virgin Mary
betw. between
Br^{y} Bradley
c. g. centre of gravity
c. s. curvature of space
c. ϕ e. cause and effect
c^{d} could
c^{d}n't couldn't
calc. calculus
cat^{al} categorical
cats. categories
Char^{a} Un^{s} *Characteristica Universalis*
⊙ circle
⊙'s circles
circums. circumstances
classf^{n} classification
classif^{n} classification
coll^{n} collection
collec^{n} collection
communic^{n} communication
comp^{ts} components
conc^{d} conceived
conc^{ns} conceptions
concl^{ns} conclusions
cond^{al} conditional
cond^{ns} conditions
config^{n} configuration
cons^{n} conservation
consc^{ness} consciousness
const. constant
const^{ent} constituent
const^{n} constitution
const^{tes} constitutes
const^{ts} constituents
constr. construct
constr^{ns} constructions
contr^{n} contradiction
contradic^{ns} contradictions
Coop. Cooperative
coords. coordinates
cor. corollary
corr^{ce} correspondence
corr^{d} correspond
corr^{g} corresponding
corr^{s} corresponds
cp. compare
cp^{res} compares
cpsons comparisons
cpt^{ve} comparative
d^{o} ditto
… ditto
D. $\overline{V}$. *Deus Volant*
DC. Descartes
ded^{n} deduction
ded^{ve} deductive
def^{d} defined
def^{te} definite
defs definitions
Dem. Democratic
dem^{ns} demonstrations
demonstr^{ve} demonstrative
det^{d} determined
det^{n} determination
det^{ne} determine
det^{te} determinate
deter^{m} determinism
Dfs definitions
diff. differential
diff^{ces} differences
diff^{ed} differentiated
diff^{ly} differently
diff^{t} different / difficult
diff^{y} difficulty
differ^{ns} differentiations
diffi^{y} difficulty

difft. differentiate
dim. dimension
dim^{al} dimensional
dim^{s} dimensions
direc^{ns} directions
disp^{te} disparate
displ^{ts} displacements
dist^{ce} distance
dist^{d} distinguished
dist^{ed} distinguished
dist^{es} distinguishes
dist^{g} distinguishing
dist^{ns} distinctions
dist^{sh} distinguish
dist^{shes} distinguishes
distr^{n} distribution
÷^{n} division
dyn^{al} dynamical
dyn^{ally} dynamically
dyn^{cs} dynamics
⊃^{tic} elliptic
emp^{al} empirical
eq^{m} equilibrium
eq^{ns} equations
equal^{y} equality
equil^{al} equilateral
≡ equivalent to
Erd. Erdmann
Euc. Euclid
Eucl^{an} Euclidean
Eucli^{n} Euclidean
every^{t} everything
everyΘ everything
ex. exists
ex^{s} examples
exp^{ces} experiences
experi^{al} experimental
expl^{d} explained
expl^{ns} explanations
exp^{t} experiment
f. form
F. Freedom
figs. figures
fo^{al} functional
fo. function
fos. functions
F. O. Foreign Office
frac^{ns} fractions
fund^{al} fundamental
fut. future
G. Gerhardt
G. A. God Almighty
Gars^{n} Garsington
gen^{al} general
Geom. Geometry
geom^{al} geometrical
geom^{ally} geometrically
geom^{ly} geometrically
geom^{y} geometry
grav^{n} gravitation
heterog. heterogeneous
homog. homogeneous
homog^{y} homogeneity
hp hypothesis
hp. hypothesis
ɔc^{lic} hyperbolic
hum. human
hyp^{al} hypothetical
hyps. hypotheses
I. of I. Identity of Indiscernibles
imag^{n} imagination
imp^{t} important
imperfec^{n} imperfection
incr. increase
ind^{n} induction
indep^{t} independent
indiff^{t} indifferent
indistish^{le} indistinguishable
indiv^{s} individuals
indivs. individuals
inequal^{y} inequality
inf. *infinitum*
infer^{ce} inference
∞ infinity
∞^{ly} infinitely
∞^{te} infinite
infes^{als} infinitesimals
init^{al} initial
int. integral
int^{ve} intuitive
interac^{ns} interactions
intersec^{n} intersection
> is greater than
j^{s} judgments
j's judgments
J. C. Jesus Christ
K. Kant
K. E. kinetic energy
kn. knowledge
L. Leibniz / Leibnitz / Lotze
L^{d} Lord
L^{y} Lady
Log. Logic
log^{al} logical
log^{ly} logically
lt. limit
lt^{ed} limited
lt^{g} limiting
lt^{ns} limitations
m′ matter
m′. matter
m′'s matters
m″ motion
m″'s motions
m'n motion
m-m′ matter-mind
mat^{al} material
mat^{sm} materialism
math^{al} mathematical

Math^{cs} Mathematics
Math^{s} Mathematics
McT. McTaggart
mech^{al} mechanical
mech^{m} mechanism
mem. memorandum
Met^{cs} Metaphysics
met^{ly} metaphysically
meta^{al} metaphysical
Meta^{y} Metageometry
metr^{ly} metrically
mg. meaning
mgntsm. magnetism
mgntudes. magnitudes
min. minimum
min^{al} minimal
modif^{n} modification
Mon. *Monadology*
mort. mortal
n^{os} numbers
nos. numbers
nat. nature
–^{ve} negative
Nn. Newton
non-mathemat^{ian} non-mathematician
non-math^{ns} non-mathematicians
≠ not equal to
obj^{n} objection
obj^{ve} objective
objs. objects
obs. observe
obs^{ns} observations
ont^{al} ontological
1–1 one-to-one
‖^{ls} parallels
p. pleasure
p′ pain
P. E. Potential Energy
P-e. H^{y} Pre-established Harmony
Pi primitive
P. I. primitive idea
p. i. primitive idea
P. i. primitive idea
P.p′. pleasure and pain
p.p′ pleasure and pain
P. ϕ p′. pleasure and pain
p. ϕ p′ pleasure and pain
pp′ pleasure pain
p-p′ pleasure pain
Parl^{ry} Parliamentary
part^{ar} particular
part^{le} particle
part^{s} particles
perc^{d} perceived
percep^{ns} perceptions
perf. perfect
perf^{ly} perfectly
perf^{n} perfection
⊥^{r} perpendicular
ph. philosophy / physics
ph^{y} philosophy
ph^{ers} philosophers
phen^{a} phenomena
phen^{al} phenomenal
phen^{on} phenomenon
Phil. of Hist. Philosophy of History
phil^{al} philosophical
phys^{al} physical
P. L. Pembroke Lodge
PL's Plato's
pl^{s} planes
+ plus
+^{ve} positive
polariz^{n} polarization
pos^{ns} positions
pos^{tes} postulates
Pp primitive proposition
Pps primitive propositions
pr. prove
pr^{d} proved
pr^{s} proves
pre-estab^{d} pre-established
pred. predicate
prelim. preliminary
P^{ns} Presentations
Princ. Math^{a} *Principia Mathematica*
princ^{les} principles
princ^{s} principles
prod. product
proj^{ly} projectively
proj^{ve} projective
prop^{al} proportional / propositional
prop^{al} pos^{n} propositional position
prop^{n} proportion
props. properties / propositions
psych^{al} psychological
Psych^{y} Psychology
pts. points
put^{g} putting
quad^{al} quadrilateral
quad^{s} quadrilaterals
qual^{ve} qualitative
qual^{s} qualities
qual^{y} quality
quant^{s} quantities
quant^{ve} quantitative

quant^{y} quantity
R. Russell
rat. ratio
rat^{l} rational
reac^{ns} reactions
rec^{d} received
rect^{ar} rectilinear
red. ad abs. *reductio ad absurdum*
ref^{ces} references
reflec^{n} reflection
rel^{ly} relatively
rel^{ns} relations
rel^{ve} relative
relat^{y} relativity
repub^{sm} republicanism
req^{d} required
req^{s} requires
reqd. required
reqs. requires
resp. respect
resp^{ly} respectively
resurr^{n} resurrection
rev^{n} revolution
rot^{g} rotating
rot^{n} rotation
rt. ∠^{s} right angles
s. space
S-B Schröder–Bernstein
S. R. Sufficient Reason
2^{ndary} secondary
sens^{n} sensation
sh^{d} should
sh^{d}n't shouldn't
sim^{ar} similar
sim^{ly} similarly
sim^{y} similarly
sit^{ns} situations
Soc. Socrates
soc^{y} society
sol^{n} solution
Sp. Spinoza
sp^{s} species
spher^{al} spherical
sq. rt. square root
S. S. Shilling Shocker
standpt. standpoint
stinks science
str. straight
sub^{stce} substance
subj^{s} subjects
subj^{ve} subjective
subst^{ces} substances
subst^{ed} substituted
subst^{ns} substitutions
subst^{te} substitute
substi^{n} substitution
−^{g} subtracting
subtr^{n} subtraction
suff^{t} sufficient
supernat^{al} supernatural
surf. surface
syll^{sm} syllogism
symb^{al} symbolical
symm^{al} symmetrical
synth^{ic} synthetic
Sz^{a} Spinoza
t. time
T. H. Telegraph House
t^{dron} tetrahedron
4^{dron} tetrahedron
∴ therefore
3-dim^{al} three-dimensional
θs things
θ's things
θ^{s} things
th. thought
th^{s} thoughts
theol. theology
theol^{y} theology
tog. together
Tr. Ac. Transcendental Aesthetic
Trans. Aesth. Transcendental Aesthetic
trans^{ve} transitive
transmig^{n} transmigration
transp. transposition
Δ^{s} triangles
Trig. Trigonometry
ts things
u. unit
U^{s} Uncles
ult. ultimate
ult^{ly} ultimately
unXtian unChristian
univ^{al} / univ^{l} universal
Ut^{an} Utilitarian
v. c. vicious circle
v. imp^{t} very important
v. s. *vinculum substantiale*
v. v. *vice versa*
val. value
∝ vary as
vel. velocity
vol. volume
wd. would
w^{d}n't wouldn't
wh. which
X Cross
x^{n} multiplication
X^{n} multiplication
X^{ve} multiplicative
Xtian Christian
Xtianit^{y} Christianity