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I usually encounter "M/S" followed by the Company Name in business letters. For example: Billing : Room charges to M/S ICBC or Attn: M/S ABC Hotels. Could anyone please explain what "M/S" means? Last edited by a moderator: Apr 25, 2013

Hi son-nie, I have seen this when the company name includes the names of the owners/partners in the business, for example: M/S Smith, Jones and Brown Publishing Company. In this case, M/S is the abbreviation for Messrs., the plural of Mr. and is a form of salutation. Maybe someone else can tell us if this practice extends to instances when the company name does not include the names of the principal members of the firm. I have also seen the letters MS, sometimes with punctuation or other symbols, used to mean "mail stop", which is an internal address in a company or organization. If M/s is meant to be an abbreviation of Messrs (which in turn is an abbreviation of the French word Messieurs), then traditionally in BrE it was used to address the members of a business that was run as a partnership. Then for some reason it was extended to include corporate businesses. It is beginning to fall into disuse in Britain, but can still be seen quite often, although usually as Messrs and rarely as M/s. The correct French abbreviation of Messieurs is MM (or, less frequently, Mrs), not Messrs. and not M/s. So my first question is, why is an incorrect abbreviation used in the first place? My second question is, is this usage of a "titre de civilité" in fact correct? It makes no sense to me to use the equivalent of Misters + company name. Saying for example "Misters ABC Engineering" makes no sense to me. A company is not a person, so why would it be addressed as such? I know English is not my first language, but I lived in the US for 16 years and never ever came across this in business. Company names were referred to only by the company name. I will appreciate any explanation regarding this topic. Thanks

The correct French abbreviation of Messieurs is MM (or, less frequently, Mrs), not Messrs. and not M/s. Welcome to the Forum, av! I just wanted to say that loanwords into English need not conform to the rules of the original language - in terms of spelling, plural form, pronunciation or meaning - but of course they can! The use of Messrs or M/s is now a bit dated (as Kevin Beach says in post 4). Lablady (post 2) explains the origin of the use: they were titles of men who were partners in a business. Remember that 'Messrs.' would be pronounced something like 'messers' which to the 'man in the street' would be more or less the equivalent of 'messieurs'. I imagine that this is the explanation which av11127 is looking for. 百度知道>提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> 提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> Attention: (or Attn:) John Smith (or Attention:/Attn: Sales department) Dear Mr. Smith: I think in the US, we would never do that. I subscribe to the pmweek style. Not my style. I have (up until yesterday) put it on the second line as Andygc showed. It was research for this thread that taught me better. I had to completely rewrite my first draft of the post. As the US Postal Service says: from top to the bottom you go from the smallest to the largest. So, the "Attn:" line goes at the top. Side note: It is important for the City State Zip line to be the bottom-most, and for it to be formatted "City, ST 12345-6789" and have nothing below it, as this is what the automatic scanners are looking for. If a person has to enter the Zip Code by hand (or worse, enter the city and state by hand to look up the Zip Code) it can add a day or two to delivery time. The PO would prefer ALL CAPS (whether typed or hand-written), but realizes that there would be a lot of resistance to this, as people much prefer the usual combination of upper and lower-case letters. When writing english business letters, which is the correct abbreviation of "attention". I reckon it must be either "att" or "atn". I've always used "att", but fear that it might be a calque introduced from danish. Thank you. In another forum, I saw suggestion that will be properly use ATT, for attachment and ATTS, for Attachments . After Reading all previous post and because I don't want to mix attention and attachment, I will probably stick to: Attn. /attn. or Attention: for attention (Canada, US) , FTAO or Attn: for UK ATT, attachment Atts. attachments , Enc . Enclosures "Attachment: [Monthly Market Research]" "Enclosures: (10)." "Atts.: (5 pages)" or "Encl: For your eyes only." Recently I came across such a phrase as 'travel on business' but to me it doesn't sound right. I've seen it only this article about traveling for business, in this essay about fast food and in couple of other places online. It kind of seems to have the same meaning as 'to go on a business trip' but I also think its meaning may have something to do with having a work that requires you to move around the city rather than sit in an office. In the end I'm not quite sure which one is correct. So, have you ever heard of something like this? At least in American English, both traveling on business and traveling for business are possible and idiomatic. I certainly use both, though I think I use traveling for business more often. I agree it probably comes from "being on the road" or "being on a business trip". "Being on the road" means a salesman is travelling to customers, frequently by car. But I agree with Just Kate both are used; how your construct your sentence controls which you use. I am travelling on a business trip. I am travelling for business. It kind of seems to have the same meaning as 'to go on a business trip' but I also think its meaning may have something to do with having a work that requires you to move around the city rather than sit in an office. If your work has you driving around the city (visiting various customers, for example), we don't call that "travelling on business" or a "business trip" (which mean the same). Both those terms imply a longer distance: usually an airplane flight, nowadays. Hundreds or thousands of miles. There are a large number of people who take multiple "business trips" each month, and a larger number who take them several times a year. For many airlines, a majority of their passengers are people on business trips. If your work has you driving around the city (visiting various customers, for example), we don't call that "travelling on business" or a "business trip" (which mean the same). Both those terms imply a longer distance: usually an airplane flight, nowadays. Hundreds or thousands of miles. There are a large number of people who take multiple "business trips" each month, and a larger number who take them several times a year. For many airlines, a majority of their passengers are people on business trips. I agree. I used to travel "on the road" and I would leave my house and return two weeks later. Truly that was on the road. Nowadays I hop on a plane and visit a customer and I'm home in two days. That's a "business trip" and it is not on the road. I used to travel for business. Now I travel for pleasure. I used to travel on business. Now I travel on pleasure. Nobody ever said English is logical. I agree. I used to travel "on the road" and I would leave my house and return two weeks later. Truly that was on the road. Nowadays I hop on a plane and visit a customer and I'm home in two days. That's a "business trip" and it is not on the road. can I say "I have a lot of travelling on business"?-- It is more natural to say "do", and make "travelling" a verb: I do a lot of travelling on business. You might want to add "overnight" I do quite a lot of traveling for business, much of it overnight. 百度知道>提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> 提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> _