


Layers

Creative Commons licences are made up of 3 layers:


- **Legal code:** detailed legal text which is enforceable in court
- **Common deed:** simplified summary of legal code to be “human readable”
- **Machine readable:** summarizes legal code as metadata for search engines and technology

Licence Elements


CC licenses have four possible elements:




Attribution (BY):
Credit the creator



ShareAlike (SA):
Share adaptations under same licence




NonCommercial (NC):
No commercial use




NoDerivatives (ND):
Reusers cannot share adaptations

CC Licences


Elements are mixed and matched to make up the 6 licences




Attribution
(CC BY)




Attribution-ShareAlike
(CC BY-SA)




Attribution- NonCommercial
(CC BY-NC)



Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike
(CC BY-NC-SA)




Attribution-NoDerivatives
(CC BY-ND)



Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives
(CC BY-NC-ND)

More open



Less open


Exceptions and Limitations

You do not need a copyright licence or to follow CC terms if the use falls under:

- **Fair Dealing/Fair Use:** allows certain uses without permission (e.g., criticism, parody, or educational purposes)
- **Marrakesh Treaty:** enables people with disabilities to copy and modify works for accessibility
- **Public Domain:** works are free of copyright so no permission is needed to copy, use, adapt, or share

Want to mark something as public domain?

Use a Public Domain Tool



CC0 (CC Zero)
Creator waives all rights and releases own work into public domain



Public Domain Mark (PDM)
Label for works known to be free of all copyright restrictions

References

Creative Commons. [n.d.]. *Unit 3: Anatomy of a CC Licence*.
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