About the Licences

What is a CC licence?
The CC licences provide a simple standardised way for individual creators, companies and institutions to share their work with others on flexible terms without infringing copyright. The licences allow users to reuse, remix and share the content legally.

Offering your work under a Creative Commons licence does not mean giving up your copyright. It means permitting users to make use of your material in various ways, but only on certain conditions.

Licence terms: baseline permissions and core conditions

The CC licences set out the uses that may lawfully be made of the copyright material and specifies the conditions which must be complied with when it is used.

There are six standardised CC licences.

Each of the CC licences grants certain **baseline permissions** to users in advance, authorising them to use the material, provided they comply with **core conditions**, as well as other general terms in the licence.

The **baseline permissions** granted by the CC licences permit the material to be copied, distributed, displayed and performed. Four of the CC licences additionally grant permission to users to use the CC-licensed material to create a Derivative Work (version 3.0 Australia licences) or Adapted Material (version 4.0 international licences), which may then be copied, distributed, displayed and performed.

The **core condition** that applies to all six of the CC licences is the requirement that the author of the work is attributed – the **Attribution** condition.

The other **core conditions** are:
The Creative Commons Licences: the version 3.0 Australia licences (the ported licences) and the version 4.0 international licences (the unported licences)

The Creative Commons licences are set out below, going from the most liberal (or least restrictive) licence, the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence, to the most restrictive licence, the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial No Derivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) licence.

There are two versions of the Creative Commons licences currently in use in Australia:

1. the **version 3.0 CC Australia licences** (the Australian “ported licences”), which were launched in June 2010; and

2. the **version 4.0 international licences** (the unported licences), which were launched in November 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribution BY</th>
<th>NonCommercial NC</th>
<th>No Derivative Works ND</th>
<th>Share Alike SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This applies to every Creative Commons work. Whenever a work is copied or redistributed under a Creative Commons licence, the original creator (and any other nominated parties) must be credited and the source linked to.</td>
<td>Lets others copy, distribute, display and perform the work for noncommercial purposes only.</td>
<td>Lets others distribute, display and perform only verbatim copies of the work. They may not adapt or change the work in any way.</td>
<td>Allows others to remix, adapt and build on the work, but only if they distribute the derivative works under the same the licence terms that govern the original work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A licence cannot feature both the Share Alike and No Derivative Works options. The Share Alike requirement applies only to derivative works.
You can download a printable fact sheet about the licences [here](#).

**Attribution**

**CC BY**

This licence allows users to distribute, remix and build upon a work, and create Derivative Works – even for commercial use – provided they credit the original creator/s (and any other nominated parties). This is the most accommodating of the licences in terms of what others can do with the work.

**Version 3.0 (CC Australia ported licence):**

View CC BY 3.0 Australia Licence Deed | View CC BY 3.0 Australia Legal Code

**Version 4.0 (international licence):**

View CC BY 4.0 Licence Deed | View CC BY 4.0 Legal Code

**Attribution-Share Alike**

**CC BY-SA**

This licence allows users to distribute, remix and build upon the work, and create Derivative Works – even for commercial purposes – as long as they credit the original creator/s (and any other nominated parties) and license any new creations based on the work under the same terms. All new Derivative Works will carry the same licence, so will also allow commercial use.

In other words, you agree to share your materials with others, if they will share their new works in return. This licence is often compared to the free software licences, known as ‘copyleft.’

**Version 3.0 (CC Australia ported licence):**

View CC BY-SA 3.0 Australia Licence Deed | View CC BY-SA 3.0 Australia Legal Code

**Version 4.0 (international licence):**

View CC BY-SA 4.0 Licence Deed | View CC BY-SA 4.0 Legal Code
**Attribution-No Derivatives**  
**CC BY-ND**

This licence allows others to distribute the work, even for commercial purposes, as long as the work is unchanged, and the original creator/s (and any other nominated parties) are credited.

**Version 3.0 (CC Australia ported licence):**

View CC BY-ND 3.0 Australia Licence Deed | View CC BY-ND 3.0 Australia Legal Code

**Version 4.0 (international licence):**

View CC BY-ND 4.0 Licence Deed | View CC BY-ND 4.0 Legal Code

---

**Attribution-NonCommercial**  
**CC BY-NC**

This licence lets others distribute, remix and build upon the work, but only if it is for non-commercial purposes and they credit the original creator/s (and any other nominated parties). They don’t have to license their Derivative Works on the same terms.

**Version 3.0 (CC Australia ported licence):**

View CC BY-NC Australia Licence Deed | View CC BY-NC 3.0 Australia Legal Code

**Version 4.0 (international licence):**

View CC BY-NC 4.0 Licence Deed | View CC BY-NC 4.0 Legal Code
Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike
CC BY-NC-SA

This licence lets others distribute, remix and build upon the work, but only if it is for non-commercial purposes, they credit the original creator/s (and any other nominated parties) and they license their derivative works under the same terms.

Version 3.0 (CC Australia ported licence):

View CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 Australia Licence Deed | View CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 Australia Legal Code

Version 4.0 (international licence):

View CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 Licence Deed | View CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 Legal Code

Attribution-NonCommercial-No Derivatives
CC BY-NC-ND

This licence is the most restrictive of the six main licences, allowing redistribution of the work in its current form only. This licence is often called the ‘free advertising’ licence because it allows others to download and share the work as long as they credit the original creator/s (and any other nominated parties), they don’t change the material in any way and they don’t use it commercially.

Version 3.0 (CC Australia ported licence):

View CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 Australia Licence Deed | View CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 Australia Legal Code

Version 4.0 (international licence):

View CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 Licence Deed | View CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 Legal Code

More Information

You can find fact sheets, videos and other information tools about Creative Commons, its licences and using licensed material on our Learn More page.

The Creative Commons international site also has a whole range of information, including:

- an explanation of the rights covered by Creative Commons licences in the baseline rights and restrictions section
examples in their “About” section
• guidance on the interpretation of ‘non-commercial’ “NonCommercial interpretation” and ‘share alike’ “Share Alike”
• the think page discusses some things you may want to consider before using the Creative Commons licences.

The Licence Chooser assists in choosing an appropriate CC licence and applying a CC licence to your material. [Note that the default setting of the Licence Chooser is the version 4.0 international CC licence suite. If you want to apply a version 3.0 CC Australia licence, you need to click on “Looking for jurisdiction ports of earlier versions?” and choose Australia on the drop down list of countries.]

Version 2.5 Australia Licences

In June 2010 Creative Commons Australia upgraded the Australian suite of CC licences to version 3.0. (The material above refers to the ported Australian version 3.0 CC licences).

When Creative Commons was first launched in Australia, the version of the CC licences used was version 2.5. The ported version 2.5 Australian CC licences are as follows:

• Attribution (version 2.5 Australia);
• Attribution-Share Alike (version 2.5 Australia);
• Attribution-Noncommercial (version 2.5 Australia);
• Attribution-No Derivative Works (version 2.5 Australia);
• Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works (2.5 Australia); and
• Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike (version 2.5 Australia).

Quick Links

• Are you looking for free images, text, music, or audiovisual resources to use in your own work?
• Want to get a Creative Commons licence to let others know how they can share and reuse your works?
• Need to email us or subscribe to our newsletter?
• Looking for our Fact Sheets?
• Looking for Open Access information?

Follow Us

Except where otherwise noted, content on this site is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. See our policies for terms and conditions.

Retrieved from https://creativecommons.org.au/learn/licences/ on 30/4/2018