

# Latin Terms and Abbreviations

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Academic writing often uses Latin terms and abbreviation. You should be able to understand what they mean, but I recommend that you exercise restraint in using them yourself. Nothing looks worse than a mediocre paper dressed up as great scholarship by excessive use of Latin. As with other words that English has adopted from foreign languages, these terms sometimes get italicized, but this is not always the case: some of them have become so common that they are no longer given this special treatment. If in doubt, consult the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

- a fortiori* For a still stronger reason; all the more  
Note: '*a fortiori*' does *not* mean the same as 'moreover'
- a priori not derived from sensory experience
- a posteriori learned through sensory experience
- cf. see also; compare  
Use: in footnotes  
Latin: *confer* (imperative of *conferre*)
- e.g. for example  
Latin: *exempli gratia*
- et al. and others  
Use: to abbreviate long lists of authors in bibliographic references  
Latin: *et alii* (masc.), *et aliae* (fem.), or *et alia* (neut.)  
Note: there is no period after 'et'

ibid.	In the same place Use: in footnotes to refer to the book, chapter, article, or page cited <i>in the preceding note</i> Latin: <i>ibidem</i> Note: don't confuse ibid. with loc. cit.
id., <i>idem</i> <i>eadem</i>	the same <i>man</i> the same <i>women</i> Use: to refer to someone who has been mentioned previously
i.e.	that is Latin: <i>id est</i>
loc. cit.	in the place cited Use: in footnotes to refer to the book, chapter, article, or page cited in an earlier note, but <i>not the preceding one</i> Latin: <i>loco citato</i> . Note: don't confuse loc. cit. with ibid.
NB	mark well; observe particularly Latin: <i>nota bene</i>
<i>supra</i>	earlier in this writing; above
s.v.	under the word Use: to introduce a cross-reference in a dictionary or index Latin: <i>sub verbo</i>
<i>ut supra</i>	as above
vide	see; consult. Use: to direct a reader to another item in a dictionary, etc. Latin: imperative of <i>videre</i>
<i>vide supra</i>	see above
viz.	that is; namely Use: to introduce examples, lists, or items

Latin: *videlicet*