

i.e., etc., and e.g.

Many of us have seen these markings. Some of us are familiar with these. However, there are also those who are confused about what they mean and when to use them.

Defining these three in simple terms:

i.e. - this stands for “that is (id est)” which originated from Latin. This can also be substituted with the word “in other words”.

etc. - “etcetera” which means “and so on and so forth”

e.g. - *exempli gratia* means “for instance or for example”.

- ***When to use i.e.***

This abbreviation is usually used when you want to specify or name previously given or mentioned ideas. Through this, the meaning becomes clearer, avoiding any confusion.

Examples:

1. One of the students, i.e., Jonathan, received an appreciation award from the city government.
2. I brought my favorite dish with me, i.e., Filipino chicken adobo.
3. We were alerted by our customers about the issues that our new shoes have, i.e., the red paint which fades easily.
4. The carpenter, i.e., our neighbor, asked for a job at our furniture shop.

- ***When to use e.g.***

This abbreviation stands for the Latin word “*exempli gratia*” which means “for example.” This is usually used when the author wants to introduce one or more examples to help readers understand the text. This can be literally translated and used as an exchange for “for example” and “as such”.

Examples:

1. The school holds a variety of events (e.g. gymnastics, swimming, basketball, and soccer).
2. Big companies, e.g. Windows and Apple, surprised their customers with their new product features.
3. The students were asked to think of any writing projects, e.g. writing essays and interviewing people.
4. Communication involves many processes, e.g. input and output.

- ***Where to use etc. (Etcetera)***

“Etcetera” is taken from the Latin phrase “*et*” meaning “and”, “*cetera*” meaning “the rest”. When abbreviated, it only includes the first three letters “etc.”.

We primarily use “etc.” to start a list that will not be completed, which means *there are other things besides what has been stated*.

Examples:

1. Make sure that kids will eat vegetables: carrots, cabbage, etc.
2. The school will provide stationeries like pencils, paper, etc.

3. I like to watch football, basketball, etc.
4. My garden has roses, sunflowers, tulips, etc.

Note:

- A period is necessary to end these (i.e., e.g. and etc.) as they are all abbreviations.
- Ex. or ex. is seldom used as “examples” as they may mean “exercise” in academic context.

EXERCISES

Choose “i.e, e.g., or etc.” to fill the gap in the following sentences.

1. My sister likes sports, _____ swimming, dancing, hockey, and hiking.
2. The doctor told me to indicate my blood type, _____ A, B, AB, O.
3. He has hemophobia, _____ fear of blood.
4. My literature subject covers drama, story writing, poetry, _____.
5. Anything could happen when you drive recklessly, _____ head-on collision or vehicle rollover.
6. I like animals, _____ dogs, cats, and fish.
7. My mum likes to bake pastries, _____ apple pie and baklava.
8. He bought various flavors of ice cream, e.g., chocolate, cheese, mango.

9. My friend can say a few words in Tagalog, _____ Kumusta ka.
10. Bang and boom are examples of onomatopoeias, _____ words that imitate a sound.
11. I stated the policy number 5 to the students, _____ littering is not allowed.
12. You may bring any small items, _____ coins, pencils, stamps, and straws.

ANSWER KEY

Choose “i.e, e.g., or etc.” to fill the gap in the following sentences.

ANSWERS

1. My sister likes sports, e.g., swimming, dancing, hockey, and hiking.
2. The doctor told me to indicate my blood type, i.e., A, B, AB, O.
3. He has hemophobia, i.e., fear of blood.
4. My literature subject covers drama, story writing, poetry, etc.
5. Anything could happen when you drive recklessly, e.g., head-on collision or vehicle rollover.
6. I like animals, e.g., dogs, cats, and fish.
7. My mum likes to bake pastries, e.g., apple pie and baklava.
8. He bought various flavors of ice cream, e.g., chocolate, cheese, mango.
9. My friend can say a few words in Tagalog, e.g., Kumusta ka.
10. Bang and boom are examples of onomatopoeias, i.e., words that imitate a sound.
11. I stated the policy number 5 to the students, i.e., littering is not allowed.
12. You may bring any small items, e.g., coins, pencils, stamps, and straws.