



ITALICS

Italics are used to emphasize special words, phrases, or clauses. If you are writing by hand or are unable to use italics, you can underline the items that should be in italics.

28a

Highlight titles

1. Highlight titles of longer works

To highlight the title of a larger or longer work, use italics. Thus, you should italicize the titles of poetry or short story collections, anthologies, books, albums/CDs, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, television series, and radio series.

- ➔ *Signs of Life: A Book of Visual Poetry* by John Ecko
- ➔ *Vital Signs: International Short Stories on Aging* by Dorothy Sennett and Anne Czarniecki
- ➔ *The Signs of Language Revisited: An Anthology in Honor of Ursula Bellugi and Edward Klima* – edited by Karen Emmorey and Harlan L. Lane
- ➔ *Lonely Planet Signspotting* – a book by Doug Lansky
- ➔ *The Sign* – a CD by Ace of Base
- ➔ *Vital Signs* – a magazine
- ➔ *Encyclopedia Britannica* – an encyclopedia
- ➔ *Sign of the Times* – a television series
- ➔ *The Bob and Tom Radio Show* – a radio series

Helpful hint

Quotation marks are used to enclose the titles of short works, including poems, short stories, lectures, book chapters, song titles, magazine articles, newspaper articles, encyclopedia entries, and television/radio episodes.

→ “Signs and Wonder” is episode 7.9 of *The X-Files*.

For information on using quotation marks, see **Chapter 20**.

2. Highlight legal cases

Italics are used to highlight the titles of legal cases.

→ *Roe v. Wade*, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, *State v. Scopes*

3. Identify naval and air ships

Italics are used to identify naval crafts, aircraft, and spacecraft.

→ *Nimitz*, *Titanic*, *Queen Mary*

→ *Spruce Goose*, *Spirit of St. Louis*, *Lockheed Vega*, *Air Force One*

→ *Challenger*, *Atlantis*, *Enterprise*, *Sputnik*, *Explorer*



28b

Highlight special letters, words, phrases, or clauses

Italics are used to highlight special letters, words, phrases, and clauses.

1. Highlight non-English words

Italics are used when you write a non-English word or phrase. If the word or phrase is used multiple times, use italics only the first time it is used.

French phrase for “joy of living” → Every time I see Karen, I drink in her *joie de vivre*.

Japanese word for “special singing and dancing” → My favorite part of Japanese night was the *kabuki* theater.

Arabic phrase for “have a safe journey” → As he left me on the trail, the guide wished me, “*Bissalama*.”

The English language has borrowed heavily from other languages for centuries, and some of these words are now considered part of English. For these types of everyday words, you do not use italics.

- soy (Japanese), glasnost (Russian), banana (Wolof), Kwanzaa (Swahili), cider (Hebrew)

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1973, a survey (by Thomas Finkenstaedt and Dieter Wolff) of about 80,000 words found in the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* (3rd edition) showed that 28.3% of the English words were borrowed from French, 28.24% from Latin, 25% from Germanic languages (including Old and Middle English), and 5.32% from Greek. All other languages contributed less than 1% of the borrowed words (with 3.28% deriving from proper names and 4.03% of the word origins being unknown).



2. Highlight referenced or discussed letters, words, phrases, and clauses

You also use italics to highlight words that you are discussing, defining, or using in a special way.

- Words with the letters *SK* at the beginning are usually of Scandinavian origin.
- I had no idea that the word *banana* came from the African language Wolof.

- *Leviathan* had the original meaning of “sea monster” but now refers to anything of an unusual size.

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Italicize when needed.

1. On *The Bruce and Janet Show* on satellite radio, they often end the show by saying *au revoir* or *adios*.
2. Once, on the *Queen Mary*, Bruce ended the show by saying *adios*.
3. Some of the show's best conversations have been collected on *Talk the Talk with Bruce and Janet*, a limited-edition CD.
4. The *Dictionary of American Radio Dialects* also has three entries that describe some of the funny expressions that Bruce uses.
5. My favorite Bruce expression is *quack like a duck but roar like a lion*.