

## e.g. and i.e.

### e.g.

e.g. stands for the Latin phrase *exempli gratia*, which means “for the sake of an example.” In English, writers use parentheses and e.g. when providing an example (or examples) of something:

*I plan to take several English classes (e.g., Composition II) next semester.*

*There are many animals in the zoo (e.g., lions, tigers, and hippos).*

*This study abroad program offers trips to various South American countries (e.g., Chile, Argentina, and Ecuador).*

### i.e.

i.e. stands for the Latin phrase *id est*, which means “that is.” In English, writers use parentheses and i.e. to restate something; it can be read as “in other words...”:

*I plan to take English 1023 (i.e., Composition II) next semester.*

*I saw the biggest land animal (i.e., the elephant) at the zoo.*

*This study abroad program offers trips to the two largest South American countries (i.e., Argentina and Brazil).*

Note: Notice that e.g. and i.e. are never capitalized, and they are always followed by a comma.

### When to Use e.g. Versus When to Use i.e.

Use e.g. when you want to name a few (but not all) of the members of a group, but use i.e. when you want to restate a term or name all of the members of a group.

WRONG: *Republican presidents (i.e., Reagan and Bush) tend to be fiscally conservative.*

RIGHT: *Republican presidents (e.g., Reagan and Bush) tend to be fiscally conservative.*

Since Reagan and Bush are not the only Republican presidents but rather just two examples of Republican presidents, the writer should use e.g.

WRONG: *The three most recent presidents (e.g., Clinton, Bush, and Obama) all served two terms.*

RIGHT: *The three most recent presidents (i.e., Clinton, Bush, and Obama) all served two terms.*

Since Clinton, Bush, and Obama make up the entire group of “the three most recent presidents” (as of 2015), the writer should use i.e.