

Differences between e.g., i.e., and etc. (and how to read them out loud)

e.g.

What does it stand for?

It stands for *exempli gratia*, in Latin, and it means “for the sake of example.”

When is it used?

Use it before listing one or more examples of something to show what you mean.

Example: I’m trying to eat more healthy food, e.g., vegetables, fruit, and fish.

How do you read it?

Say, “for example.”

i.e.

What does it stand for?

It stands for *exempli gratia*, in Latin, and it means “that is,” or “in other words.”

When is it used?

Use it when you want to rephrase something to add more details.

Example: Please pay your bill on time, i.e., before the end of the month.

How do you read it?

Say, “that is.”

etc.

What does it stand for?

It stands for *et cetera*, in Latin, and it means “and other similar things.”

When is it used?

Use at the end of a list of examples when it is clear what the rest of the list will be.

Example: I’m trying to avoid fast food, cookies, potato chips, etc.

How do you read it?

Say, “et cetera” (pronounced et-SET-er-uh or et-SE-truh).