



# Latin Abbreviations

## What is a Latin abbreviation?

A "Latinate abbreviation" is simply an abbreviation that has a Latin root and is commonly used in English composition. Because Latin uses so few letters and words to say so much, authors often borrow the use of Latinate abbreviations as a tool for concise citation.

## Common Latinate abbreviations

The following are examples of Latinate abbreviations that are commonly used in English prose, most especially in academic writing:

- etc. = et cetera = "and the other things," "and the rest"
- et al = et alia = "and the other ones," "and the other (people)"
- i.e. = id est = "that is"
- e.g. = exempli gratia = "the grace of an example," "for example"
- cf. = confer = "compare"
- ibid. = ibidem = "the same," "in the same place"
- N.B. = nota bene = "note well"
- P.S. = postscriptum = lit. "the thing having been written afterwards"
- [sic] = sic = "thus," "yes"

Once you know the meanings of the abbreviations, you are surely on your way! N.B.: If you still have trouble, though, don't hesitate to pick up your nearest writer's reference-book to learn more about abbreviations (See *A Writer's Reference* by Diane Hacker).