

# The Scientific Bureau of the University of Catania

**i.e.**

**e.g.**

**etc.**



# i.e. e.g. etc.

First of all these are Latin expressions:

i.e. **id est** (that is, namely)

e.g. **exempli gratia** (for example, for the sake of example, such as)

etc. **et cetera** (and so on, and other similar things) (**et**=and, **cetera**=the rest)

They are not interchangeable and you need to remember a couple of points.

i.e. gives further, precise information, while e.g. gives only an example.

- **You have 21 days holiday, i.e. the first 3 weeks in August.** (here you get precise information concerning the exact 21 days)
- **There are many things to do in the evening, e.g. go to the cinema, a restaurant, join a club.** (here you get some of the many examples, perhaps you will not do any of these examples)

Modern usage promotes the exclusion of the full stops: **ie eg**

USA usage puts a comma after: **ie, i.e.**, UK usage does not **ie eg**

Do not use **etc.** with these abbreviations

**N.B. Some scientific journals, ie Nature, do not use these abbreviations but prefer Namely and Such as**

**Etc.** This is very popular and often used in spoken English, sometimes saying it twice: etc. etc. The general meaning is “so on” or “and other similar things”, meaning that both the person using it and the person reading/hearing it understand exactly what “the others” are. In scientific writing etc. is only possible in a very limited number of occasions: where everyone knows what **the others** are.

*You can send them on any day of the week: Monday, Tuesday etc. (here it is clear that everyone knows the other days of the week).*

The numbers were chosen from the first 20 even numbers: 2, 4, 6, etc.