



LATIN WORDS & PHRASES COMMONLY USED IN ENGLISH

STW UNIT 02

Abbreviation of Latin Word	Full Form of Latin Word	English Meaning	Example of Usage
a. m.	ante meridiem	before noon	The appointment was at 10 a.m.
c./ ca	circa	about; around; approximately	The house was built circa 1870.
cf.	confer	compare (used in citations)	Jones 1992, Smith 2003; cf. on methodology Harris 2005
c. v.	curriculum vitae	Course of one’s life; resume	Here is a copy of my c. v.
e. g.	exempli gratia	for example; for instance	The rocky planets (e. g. Mercury) are closest to our sun.
etc.	et cetera	and so on; and other people/things	We urgently need to buy medical equipment, drugs et cetera.
et al.	et alii (masculine plural) or et aliae (feminine plural) or et alia (neutral plural)	and other people (used in citations)	Smith et al. 2003

Abbreviation of Latin Word	Full Form of Latin Word	English Meaning	Example of Usage
id., ibid.	ibidem	in the same place; relates to the immediately prior source/ author (male); used in citations	1. Barsby, 99-101 2. Ibid. 3. Ibid., 97
i. e.	id est	that is	The rocky planets (e. g. Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars) are closest to our sun.
loc. cit.	loco citato	in the place already mentioned; relates to sources before the immediately prior citation (less used now, so no example given)	--
N. B.	nota bene	note well/ carefully (used in endnotes/ footnotes)	N. B. Researchers did not have access to the medical records of the study participants.
op. cit.	opere citato	in the work already mentioned; relates to sources before the immediately prior citation [loc. cit. and op. cit. are synonymous, with op. cit. more frequent; both are less used now]	--

Abbreviation of Latin Word	Full Form of Latin Word	English Meaning	Example of Usage
p. m.	post meridiem	after noon	The interview was shifted to 3 p. m.
p. p.	per pro; per procurationem	on behalf of; used when someone signs a letter by authority or proxy because another person is not available	--
pro tem.	pro tempore	for the time; temporarily	This might be a pro tem employment.
p. s.	post scriptum	after writing (usually at the end of a letter)	--
q. e. d.	quod erat demonstrandum	which was to be shown (usually seen at the end of theorems)	--
v./ vs.	versus	against	Smith vs. the State of North Carolina (referring to a court case)
vide	vide, imperative of video	see; look up	For more on this topic, vide pp. 72-3.
viz.	videlicet	that is to say; namely	The planets closest to our sun are the rocky ones viz. Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars

LATIN PHRASE	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USAGE
a fortiori	with even stronger reason	If the point of minimum marginal cost has not been reached, it follows a fortiori that the point of minimum average cost has not been reached either.
a posteriori	from effects to causes; reasoning based on past experience	He has three cases of violation against him in just one week; a posteriori very useful if you are arguing against him in a court.
a priori	conclusions drawn from assumptions; from what comes before; deductive reasoning	“Every apple is a fruit” is an a priori statement.
ad hoc	improvised; formed or done for a particular purpose only	An ad hoc committee was set up to oversee the matter.
ad infinitum	never ending	The argument for democracy has been made ad infinitum.
ad lib	at will; off the top of the head	She delivered her lines ad lib.
bona fide	in good faith; genuine; real	Only bona fide members of the club may use the clubhouse.

LATIN PHRASE	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USAGE
caveat	a caution/ warning (e. g. caveat emptor – "let the buyer beware")	“Caveat emptor” is the principle that the buyer is responsible for checking the quality and suitability of goods before a purchase is made.
compos mentis	in control of the mind (often used ironically)	Please call me back later when I'm compos mentis.
de facto	from the fact (rather than by right); in reality	A temporary driving license is a de facto document.
de jure	from the law	A permanent driving license is a de jure document.
ergo	therefore	“Cogito ergo sum” means “I think, therefore I am”.
errata (singular ‘erratum’)	errors; mistakes	Lists of errors from a previous publication are often marked "errata".
ex officio	out of one's duty or office	There are three official members, and two ex officio members in the committee.
ex gratia	from kindness or grace (without liability or legal obligation)	They received an undisclosed ex gratia payment.

LATIN PHRASE	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USAGE
habeas corpus	a court order instructing that a person under arrest be brought before a judge	The right of habeas corpus has long been regarded as an important safeguard of individual liberty.
in loco parentis	in the place of a parent	Teachers sometimes have to act in loco parentis.
in situ	in its original place	The paintings have been taken to the museum but the statues have been left in situ.
in toto	in its entirety	The judge accepted the testimony in toto.
in vitro	(biology) taking place outside a living organism (e. g. in a test tube)	The foetus was the result of in vitro fertilization.
inter alia	among other things	The report covers, inter alia, computers, telecommunications and air travel.
ipso facto	by the fact itself	If you are born in the USA, you are ipso facto an American citizen.

LATIN PHRASE	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USAGE
non sequitur	it does not follow	Your comment seems a non sequitur to our discussion.
per capita	per head	The per capita consumption of sugar risen in the recent years.
per	for each	This petrol station charges \$5.00 per gallon.
per annum; p. a.	for each year	The population is increasing by about 2% per annum.
per capita	for each person; per head	The country's annual income is \$5000 per capita.
per se	in itself/ themselves; intrinsically	These facts per se are not important.
persona non grata	unacceptable or unwelcome person	From now on, you may consider yourself persona non grata in this house.
post-mortem	examination of a body after death; autopsy	The post-mortem revealed that she had been murdered.
prima facie	at first sight; on the face of it	There is strong prima facie evidence that he committed perjury.

LATIN PHRASE	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USAGE
pro bono	for the public good; at no cost	She took on students from underprivileged families, pro bono.
pro rata	in proportion; proportionally	The car rental charge is \$50 per day and then pro rata for part of a day.
quid pro quo	something in return; favour or advantage given or expected in return for something	Similar to "give and take" and "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours". Sometimes also used like “tit for tat”.
re	about; concerning; regarding	Re: Unpaid Invoice I spoke to the manager re your salary increase.
sic	thus used; thus spelt; literally	Shakespeare was once spelt Shaxpeare (sic).
sine die	without a day, with no time fixed	The trial had been adjourned sine die.
sine qua non	without which not; essential precondition	Words are a sine qua non of spoken language.

LATIN PHRASE	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USAGE
status quo	things as they are; existing state of affairs	Monarchies naturally wish to maintain the status quo.
terra firma	dry land; the ground as opposed to the air or sea	Shackleton and his men set foot on terra firma after three weeks at sea.
verbatim	in exactly the same words	I had to memorize the text verbatim.
versus/ vs./ v.	against	What are the benefits of organic versus inorganic foods? In the case of Bush vs. Gore, the judges decided...
vice versa	the other way round	My phone serves me, and not vice versa.



THANK YOU!