[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [BROKEN](/wiki/BROKEN) The [Latin](/wiki/Latin) [adverb](/wiki/Adverb) ***sic*** ("thus"; in full: *sic erat scriptum*, "thus was it written")[[1]](#cite_note-1) inserted after a quoted word or passage, indicates that the quoted matter has been transcribed exactly as found in the source text, complete with any erroneous or archaic spelling, surprising assertion, faulty reasoning, or other matter that might otherwise be taken as an error of transcription.

The notation's usual purpose is to inform the reader that any errors or apparent errors in quoted material do not arise from [errors in the course of the transcription](/wiki/Transcription_error), but are intentionally reproduced, exactly as they appear in the source text. It is generally placed inside brackets to indicate that it is not part of the quoted matter.

*Sic* may also be used derisively, to call attention to the original writer's spelling mistakes or erroneous logic.<ref name=garner2001/> [Template:Wiktionary pipe](/wiki/Template:Wiktionary_pipe)

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## Etymology and historical usage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Though occasionally misidentified as an abbreviated word, *sic* is a Latin adverb used in English as an adverb, and, derivatively, as a noun and a verb.<ref name=oed1989>"sic, adv. (and n.)" *Oxford English Dictionary*, Second Edition 1989. Oxford University Press</ref>

The [adverb](/wiki/Adverb) *sic*, meaning "intentionally so written," first appeared in English circa 1856.<ref name=webster2003>[Template:Supsic](/wiki/Template:Sup). [*Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*](https://books.google.com/books?id=OwCyCvI8mokC&lpg=PP1&pg=RA1-PA1156#v=onepage&q&f=false). Merriam-Webster, 2003. ISBN 0-87779-809-5, ISBN 978-0-87779-809-5. (p.1156)</ref> It is derived from the [Latin](/wiki/Latin) adverb *sīc*, which means "so, thus, in this manner."[[2]](#cite_note-2) According to the [*Oxford English Dictionary*](/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary), the verbal form of *sic*, meaning "to mark with a *sic*," emerged in 1889, [E. Belfort Bax](/wiki/E._Belfort_Bax)[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:'s) work in *The Ethics of Socialism* being an early example.[[3]](#cite_note-3)

### False etymologies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

On occasion, *sic* has been misidentified as the [acronym](/wiki/Acronym) "s.i.c." for "spelled in context," "said in copy," "spelling is correct," "spelled incorrectly," and other phrases.[[4]](#cite_note-4) These are all [backronyms](/wiki/Backronym) from *sic*.

## Modern usage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Use of *sic* greatly increased in the mid-twentieth century.<ref name=garner2000>[Bryan A. Garner](/wiki/Bryan_A._Garner). [*The Oxford dictionary of American usage and style*](https://books.google.com/books?id=z_VmtjAU01YC&lpg=PA313&ots=6FhO4h1UH2&pg=PA305#v=onepage&q&f=false). Oxford University Press US, 2000. ISBN 0-19-513508-3, ISBN 978-0-19-513508-4</ref> For example, in [United States](/wiki/United_States) state-court opinions before 1944, *sic* appeared 1,239 times in the [Westlaw](/wiki/Westlaw) database; in those from 1945 to 1990, it appeared 69,168 times.<ref name=garner2001>Bryan A. Garner. "sic." [*A dictionary of modern legal usage*](https://books.google.com/books?id=35dZpfMmxqsC&lpg=PA54&ots=k8w_QBqhGe&pg=PA806#v=onepage&q&f=false) (2nd edition). Oxford University Press US, 2001. ISBN 0-19-514236-5, ISBN 978-0-19-514236-5 (pp.806-807)</ref> The "benighted use" as a form of ridicule, deserved or otherwise, has been cited as a major factor in this increase.<ref name=garner2001/>

The "immoderate" use of *sic* has created some controversy, leading some editors, including bibliographical scholar Simon Nowell-Smith and literary critic [Leon Edel](/wiki/Leon_Edel), to speak out against it.[[5]](#cite_note-5)

### Conventional usage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

*Sic*, in its bracketed form, is most often inserted into quoted or reprinted material in order to indicate meticulous accuracy in reproducing the preceding text, despite appearances to the reader of an incorrect or unusual [orthography](/wiki/Orthography) ([spelling](/wiki/Spelling), [punctuation](/wiki/Punctuation), grammar, syntax, fact, logic, etc.).<ref name=garner2001/><ref name=usd2009>"[Grammar and Style](http://sunburst.usd.edu/~rring/History-Writing-Guide.pdf)." *USD History Guide for Writing Research Papers*. Department of History, University of South Dakota. 6/12/2009</ref> Several usage guides recommend that a bracketed *sic* be used primarily as an aid to the reader, and not as an indicator of disagreement with the source.<ref name=garner2001/><ref name=coyle2009>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

### To denote archaisms and dialect[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

A *sic* may show that an uncommon or [archaic](/wiki/Archaism) expression is reported faithfully,<ref name=carillo2010>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> such as when quoting the [U.S. Constitution](/wiki/U.S._Constitution): "The House of Representatives shall chuse [*sic*] their Speaker ..." Several writing guidebooks discourage its use with regard to dialect, such as in cases of [American and British English spelling differences](/wiki/American_and_British_English_spelling_differences).<ref name=garner2000/><ref name=coyle2009/>[[6]](#cite_note-6) The appearance of a bracketed *sic* after the word [*analyse*](/wiki/Wikt:analyse) on a book cover led [Bryan A. Garner](/wiki/Bryan_A._Garner) to comment, "... all the quoter (or overzealous editor) demonstrated was ignorance of British usage."<ref name=garner2001/>

### Wordplay[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Various [wordplay](/wiki/Wordplay) employing the word *sic* is possible, arising either from its secondary meaning, "[to attack](/wiki/Wikt:sic#Etymology_2)", or from its [homophone](/wiki/Homophone) [*sick*](/wiki/Wikt:sick). For example, "Poor grammar makes me [sic]", has been featured on garments and postcards.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) In a different vein, a letter to the [*American Journal of Roentgenology*](/wiki/American_Journal_of_Roentgenology) suggested that the overuse of *sic* as a kind of linguistic discrimination against non-native writers of English "could lead readers to become 'sick of your sic[Template:'"](/wiki/Template:'%22).<ref name=arrive2001/>

### Form of ridicule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

The use of *sic* can be seen as an [appeal to ridicule](/wiki/Appeal_to_ridicule), whether intentional or not, because it highlights perceived irregularities. The application of *sic* with intent to disparage has been called the "benighted use" because it reflects a "false sense of superiority" in its users.<ref name=garner2001/> The following example from [*The Times*](/wiki/The_Times) of London demonstrates how the [interpolation](/wiki/Interpolation_(manuscripts)) of *sic* can discredit a quoted statement. [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

### The "ironic use" of ''sic''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

Occasionally a writer places [*sic*] after his or her own words, to indicate that the language has been chosen deliberately for special effect, especially where the writer's ironic meaning may otherwise be unclear.<ref name=fowler1929>H. W. Fowler. "(sic)." *A dictionary of modern English usage*. Oxford University Press US. Reprinted: 2009. First Published: 1926. ISBN 0-19-953534-5, ISBN 978-0-19-953534-7</ref> [Bryan A. Garner](/wiki/Bryan_A._Garner) dubbed this use of *sic* "ironic", providing the following example from [Fred Rodell](/wiki/Fred_Rodell)[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:'s) 1955 book *Nine Men*:<ref name=garner2001/> [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

## Formatting[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Where *sic* follows the quotation, it takes [brackets](/wiki/Bracket): [*sic*].[[9]](#cite_note-9) The word *sic* is usually treated as a [loanword](/wiki/Loanword) that does not require italics, and the style manuals of New Zealand, Australian and British media outlets generally do not require italicisation.<ref name=coyle2009/> However, italicization is common in the United States, where authorities including [*APA Style*](/wiki/APA_Style) insist upon it.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Because *sic* is not an abbreviation, placing a [full stop](/wiki/Full_stop)/period inside the brackets after the word *sic* is erroneous,[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12)although at least one style guide suggests styling it as a parenthetical sentence only when used after a complete sentence, like so: *(Sic).*[[9]](#cite_note-9)

## Criticism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Use of *sic* has been noted for its potential to bring about [linguistic discrimination](/wiki/Linguistic_discrimination). A letter written to the [*American Journal of Roentgenology*](/wiki/American_Journal_of_Roentgenology) (AJR) has been cited in the journal's French counterpart, the *Journal de Radiologie*, highlighting how apparent prejudices among English-language journals may be causing a higher rejection rate of [scholarly papers](/wiki/Scholarly_paper) from [francophone](/wiki/Francophone) authors<ref name=arriveetal2001>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>[Template:Spaced ndasha](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) concern because English is the [lingua franca](/wiki/Lingua_franca) for medicine.<ref name=arrive2001>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> In the letter, the *AJR* was criticized for its frequent insertion of *sic* when publishing letters written by French and Japanese authors even though its correspondence acceptance policy reserved the right of [copy-editing](/wiki/Copy-editing), which could therefore have been used beneficially to correct minor English language errors made by non English-speakers. In response, [Lee F. Rogers](/wiki/Lee_F._Rogers), the [Editor in Chief](/wiki/Editor_in_Chief) of *AJR*, apologized for the possible discriminatory interpretation and offered the following explanation for its decision to insert *sic* on multiple occasions rather than to copy-edit:<ref name=arrive2001/> [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

## Alternatives[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

### Correction[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

Some guides, including [*The Chicago Manual of Style*](/wiki/The_Chicago_Manual_of_Style), recommend "quiet [copy-editing](/wiki/Copy-editing)" (unless where inappropriate or uncertain) instead of inserting a bracketed *sic*, such as by substituting in brackets the correct word in place of the incorrect word or by simply replacing an incorrect spelling with the correct one.[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14)

### ''Recte''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Wiktionary](/wiki/Template:Wiktionary)

Alternatively, when both the original and the suggested correction are desired to be shown (as they often are in [palaeography](/wiki/Palaeography)), one may give the actual form, followed by *sic* in brackets, followed by the corrected form, preceded by *recte*, in brackets. The word *recte* is a Latin adverb meaning "rightly".[[15]](#cite_note-15)[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote) According to the *Journal of Seventeenth-Century Music Style Sheet*, there should be no punctuation, for example no colon, before the corrected word when using *recte*.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Sometimes only *sic* and the correction are in brackets, becoming as in the last example "[*sic* assumed]" (i.e. *recte* is omitted).[[17]](#cite_note-17)

### Read[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

A third alternative is to follow an error with *sic*, a comma or colon, "read", and the correct reading, all within square brackets, as in the following example: [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

* [List of Latin phrases](/wiki/List_of_Latin_phrases)
* [Sic et Non](/wiki/Sic_et_Non)
* [Sic semper tyrannis](/wiki/Sic_semper_tyrannis)
* [Sic transit gloria mundi](/wiki/Sic_transit_gloria_mundi)
* [Stet](/wiki/Stet)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

[Category:Latin words and phrases](/wiki/Category:Latin_words_and_phrases)