

Name _____

Date _____

Italics and Underlining

Definition

Italics and underlining are formatting styles used to emphasize or distinguish certain text from surrounding content. In handwritten or typed work, underlining is used, while in printed or digital text, italics are preferred. Both serve identical functions but are used in different contexts.

Example

Use	Example	Context
Titles of longer works	The Great Gatsby, The New York Times	Books, newspapers, movies, albums
Foreign words	déjà vu, bon voyage, per se	Non-English terms
Scientific names	Homo sapiens, Tyrannosaurus rex	Species names
Ships, aircraft	USS Enterprise, Spirit of St. Louis	Names of vessels
Words as words	The word ironic is often misused.	Referring to the word itself
Emphasis	She never said she would help.	Stressing importance

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Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the option that correctly uses italics or underlining according to standard conventions.

1. Which sentence correctly uses italics/underlining?

- a) The textbook Earth's Changing Landscapes discusses how glaciers shape valleys.
- b) The textbook "Earth's Changing Landscapes" discusses how glaciers shape valleys.
- c) The textbook *Earth's Changing Landscapes* discusses how glaciers shape valleys.
- d) The textbook 'Earth's Changing Landscapes' discusses how glaciers shape valleys.

2. Which term should be italicized or underlined?

- a) The French term cirque describes a bowl-shaped depression formed by glacial erosion.
- b) The Latin term cirque describes a bowl-shaped depression formed by glacial erosion.
- c) The scientific term cirque describes a bowl-shaped depression formed by glacial erosion.
- d) The technical term cirque describes a bowl-shaped depression formed by glacial erosion.

3. Which sentence correctly uses italics/underlining for emphasis?

- a) Glaciers move extremely slowly, yet their impact on landscapes is enormous.
- b) Glaciers move "extremely" slowly, yet their impact on landscapes is enormous.
- c) Glaciers move extremely slowly, yet their impact on landscapes is enormous.
- d) Glaciers move EXTREMELY slowly, yet their impact on landscapes is enormous.

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4. Which sentence correctly uses italics/underlining?

- a) The word "erratic" in glacial geology refers to a rock transported by ice.
- b) The word erratic in glacial geology refers to a rock transported by ice.
- c) The word 'erratic' in glacial geology refers to a rock transported by ice.
- d) The word ERRATIC in glacial geology refers to a rock transported by ice.

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

For each sentence, identify whether the underlined text should be italicized (or underlined in handwritten work) by writing "needs italics" or "no italics needed."

1. The geological journal Nature published a fascinating article about hanging valleys in the Alps. _____
2. The Latin term terminus refers to the end of a glacier where ice melts completely. _____
3. The word plucking describes how glaciers tear away pieces of bedrock. _____
4. Dr. Wong emphasized that glacial erosion, not river erosion, created Yosemite Valley. _____
5. The research vessel Glacier Explorer has collected data on fjord formation for over a decade. _____

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Italics and Underlining – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. c) The textbook *Earth's Changing Landscapes* discusses how glaciers shape valleys. (Titles of books should be italicized/underlined)
2. a) The French term *cirque* describes a bowl-shaped depression formed by glacial erosion. (Foreign words should be italicized)
3. c) Glaciers move extremely slowly, yet their impact on landscapes is enormous. (Italics can be used for emphasis)
4. b) The word *erratic* in glacial geology refers to a rock transported by ice. (Words as words should be italicized)
5. b) The documentary *Frozen Sculptors: How Glaciers Shape Our World* examines U-shaped valleys. (Titles of documentaries should be italicized/underlined)

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. needs italics (*Nature* is the title of a journal)
2. needs italics (*terminus* is a Latin term)
3. needs italics ("*plucking*" is being referred to as a word itself)
4. needs italics (for emphasis on the word "*glacial*")
5. needs italics (*Glacier Explorer* is the name of a vessel)