

## The Slant on Italics

Italics look pretty in print, and have seven basic uses:

1. To put special emphasis on any word, title, phrase, or sentence:  
I spent *twenty-two years* in prison for a crime I didn't commit.  
Saying, *the grass is always greener on the other side* is so cliché.
2. For a character's thoughts:  
*He's cute, but probably not my type.*  
*I don't know the answer.* Jerry looked down. *Please don't call on me!*
3. For titles of books, plays, movies, musicals, operas, musical pieces, books, long poems, magazines, and newspapers:  
*The Saturday Evening Post*  
*The New York Times*  
*Les Miserable*  
*Carousel*  
  
However, don't italicize musical pieces that are identified as a sonata, symphony, key, or concerto:  
Brandenburg Concerto No. 3  
Dvorak Slavonic Dance in E Minor Op. 72 No. 2
4. For titles of works of art:  
*Whistler's Mother*  
*Mona Lisa*
5. For names of specific ships, planes, trains, and satellites:  
*Titanic*  
*USS Ronald Reagan*  
*Orient Express*
6. For foreign words that aren't commonly used in English:  
*ad nauseum*  
*carpe diem*
7. For any words referred to as the word itself, letters, or numbers considered as words:  
*And, but, and or* are conjunctions.  
The professor gave out *As* and *Bs*.  
Why do I have trouble writing *8s* but not *2s*?

One special note: plural endings and the punctuation are not italicized!

Have you read the front page of the *Tribune*?

I love *The Post's* editorials.