

General Abbreviations, Word & Symbol Definitions, and Other Helps

The purpose of this document is to assist with working through, some perhaps challenging and/or new, features that will be encountered in the notes, for example:

- 1) **Abbreviations and symbols:** These are helpful when constructing notes because they save space. However, their meanings are not always known or obvious.
- 2) **Vocabulary:** Every subject, whether: sailing, farming, basketball, or Quantum Mechanics, has its own set of peculiar vocabulary. Learning pertinent vocabulary is extremely helpful, as it allows us to dialog with others within the subject, about the subject. Also, typically, specific words develop within subjects (not because a sudden need is felt to create a new word, but) because they allow us to condense a lot of words and ideas (precisely, uniformly, and accurately) into one word—making our dialogs less wordy, more precise, and more accurate. The downfall however is: we have to learn new words! This can be difficult initially, but the initial hard work pays off in the long run and can actually save us time.

The following will naturally be updated as needed. I hope this helps!

& This symbol denotes: ‘and’.

*Example: peas & carrots.
“peas and carrots”.*

≈ This symbol denotes: ‘approximately’.

*Example: Our house is ≈ five minutes from Playa Buye.
“Our house is approximately five minutes from Playa Buye.”*

¬ This symbol denotes: ‘not’.

*Example: ¬blue
“not blue”.*

// This symbol signifies parallel texts or passages.

Example: Jesus Calms the Storm: Mt 8:23-27 // Mk 4:35-41 // Lk 8:22-25

§ This symbol denotes: ‘section’ (§§ denotes ‘sections’).

Example: Consider the following:

A. *Colors*

a. *Red*

b. *Yellow*

i. *Corn*

ii. *Submarine*

c. *Blue*

§ A.c. is ‘Blue’; § A.b.ii. is ‘Submarine’; §§ A.a.-A.c. are colors, specifically: ‘Red, Yellow, and Blue’.

A priori—‘from what is before’. (1) This term can have very specific, technical, and nuanced meanings; however, for our purposes, it simply connotes: a position taken or judgement made *before* an event or a proposition is considered. (2) A little more technical definition—a position taken or judgement made based on theoretical deduction rather than empirical means.

AD OR A.D.—abbreviation for the Latin phrase: *anno domini*, which means: ‘in the year of our Lord’¹—(using the Western [Gregorian] Calendar) indicates that a date comes the specified number of years after the traditional date of Christ’s birth.

Ex: I was born in AD 1982.

“I was born 1,982 years after the traditional date of Christ’s birth.”

Note: Typically, the abbreviation precedes numerical dates (AD 275) and follows spelled-out dates (the third century AD). Typically, if a date is without explicit AD/BC identification, the date is assumed to be AD.

BC OR B.C.—abbreviation for: ‘before Christ’²—(using the Western [Gregorian] Calendar) indicates that a date comes the specified number of years before the traditional date of Christ’s birth.

¹ The abbreviation: CE or C.E. (“Common Era”) is interchangeable with AD, i.e., AD 250 is the same date as CE 250; both dates are 250 years after the date of Christ’s traditional birth.

² The abbreviation: BCE or B.C.E. (“Before the Common Era”) is interchangeable with BC, i.e., 250 BC is the same date as 250 BCE; both dates are 250 years before the date of Christ’s traditional birth.

Ex: The Romans destroyed Carthage in 146 BC.

“The Romans destroyed Carthage 146 years before the traditional date of Christ’s birth.”

Note: Typically, the abbreviation follows both numerical dates (275 BC) and spelled-out dates (the third century BC). Cf. AD entry. Typically, if a date is without explicit AD/BC identification, the date is assumed to be AD.

c.—abbreviation for: ‘circa’³—‘approximately’.

Ex: I first moved to Puerto Rico in c. 2004.

*“I first moved to Puerto Rico in **approximately (or sometime around)** 2004.”*

cf.—abbreviation for the Latin: *confer*⁴—‘compare’ or ‘compare with’.

Ex: Mark 1:9-10 describes Jesus’ baptism by John (cf. Matthew 3:13-17).

*“Mark 1:9-10 describes Jesus’ baptism by John (**compare with** Matthew 3:13-17).*

Contra—Latin: “against”.

Corollary—(1) a direct consequence or result. (2) in logic, a proposition that follows from (and is often appended to) one already proved.

Ex: Jack is not planning to study for his test; the corollary of which, is that Jack will have a hard time passing his test.

E—east.

e.g.—abbreviation for the Latin phrase: *exempli gratia*—‘for example’ or ‘for the sake of example’.

Ex: I like many different musicians and bands, e.g., The Beatles, Blink-182, and Frank Sinatra.

*“I like many different musicians and bands, **for example:** The Beatles, Blink-182, and Frank Sinatra.”*

esp.—abbreviation for: *especially*—‘especially’ or ‘specifically’ or ‘particularly’ or ‘highlighted’.

Ex: As we work through Mark, we need to remember to constantly keep our contextual eye on Mark 1:1-15, esp. 1:1.

*“As we work through Mark, we need to remember to constantly keep our contextual eye on Mark 1:1-15, **especially** 1:1.”*

et al.—abbreviation for the Latin phrase: *et alii*—‘and others’.

Ex: The New Testament has numerous authors: Paul, John, Mark, et al.

*“The New Testament has numerous authors: Paul, John, Mark, **and others.**”*

Enigmatic—difficult to interpret or understand; mysterious.

Epiphany—a moment of sudden and great revelation.

Epistemology—(1) branch within philosophy: the theory of knowledge, e.g., methods, validity, and scope—Can we ‘know’ and to what extent? How do we ‘know’? What is foundational to ‘knowing’? (2) ‘Knowing’ process or state.

Esoteric—intended for or understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest.

etc.—abbreviation for the Latin phrase: *et cetera* (also *etcetera*)—‘the rest’ or ‘left over’ or ‘and other similar things’ or ‘and so on’.

Ex: The beach offers a variety of leisure activities, such as: swimming, snorkeling, reading, hunting for sea glass, surfing, etc.

*“The beach offers a variety of leisure activities, such as: swimming, snorkeling, reading, hunting for sea glass, surfing, **and other similar things.**”*

Ex.—abbreviation for ‘example’.

Explicit—directly expressed. Stated clearly and precisely.

Gentile—not Jewish.

³ C. will be used, for our purposes, interchangeably with: *ca.* Also, it will not necessarily connote the *preceding* of a date.

⁴ Cf. will be used, for our purposes, interchangeably with: ‘*see*’ or ‘*refer to*’ or the abbreviation: *cp.*

Hellenistic/Hellenism⁵—“literally, “imitating the Greeks”; the era after the death of Alexander the Great when Greek culture spread into the Near East and blended with the culture of that region.” (Spielvogel 2006).

i.e.—abbreviation for the Latin phrase: *id est*—‘that is’ or ‘that is to say’ or ‘in other words’ or perform the function of a colon (:) or can often be used interchangeably with ‘*namely*’.

*Ex: The woman took care of many dogs, cats, goats, and chickens, i.e., she loved animals.
“The woman took care of many dogs, cats, goats, and chickens **that is to say** she loved animals.”*

Implicit—implied though not directly expressed. Indicated by suggestion rather than explicit (direct) reference.

Inerrant—(1) To be without error in things asserted or revealed. (2) Incapable of being wrong.

Inter—prefix: between

Ex 1: The intermural basketball game featured the finest athletes from the University of Montana Western and Montana Tech⁶.

Ex. 2: The interatomic forces are those that act between atoms.

Intra—prefix: within

Ex 1: The intramural basketball game featured the University of Montana Western’s finest athletes⁷.

Ex 2: The intra-atomic forces are those that act within an atom.

Itinerant—travelling from place to place.

MS(S)—Manuscript(s).

N—North.

NE—North East.

NT—New Testament.

NW—North West.

OT—Old Testament.

Par.—and parallel passage(s).

Ex: ...when Jesus calms the storm (Mk 6:35-41 par.).

*“...when Jesus calms the storm (Mk 6:35-41; **and Mt 8:23-27; Lk 8:22-25**).*

Pericope—an extract (section) from a text.

Reproach—an expression of disapproval or disappointment.

S—South.

SE—South East.

Sensory—relating to the physical senses or sensation.

SW—South West.

Synoptic⁸ **Gospels**—the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, & Luke—which describe events from a similar point of view with similar (or verbatim) language, form, and structure (as contrasted with John).

Temporal—relating to time.

⁵ This is actually (like many historical terms) a somewhat controversial and nuanced term to define—for our purposes however, a solid “text-book type” of definition will do just fine.

⁶ The game consists of teams *between* different Universities.

⁷ The game consists of both teams from *within* the University of Montana Western.

⁸ Synopsis—a brief summary of something.

v.—abbreviation for ‘verse’.

Ex: In Mark, chapter 4, Jesus calms a storm (v. 39).

vv.—abbreviation for ‘verses’.

Ex: In Mark, chapter 4, Jesus calms a storm (vv. 35-41).

Vis-à-vis—from the Old French: ‘face to face’ (1) In relation to. (2) as compared with; as opposed to.

Ex: The artist’s new painting was breathtaking, but when considered vis-à-vis her earlier work, the painting’s grandeur was even more evident.

*“The artist’s new painting was breathtaking, but when considered **in relation to** her earlier work, the painting’s grandeur was even more evident.”*

W—West.