

Current Words Quick Guide 1

ITALICS: What do you do with them?

1. Italics are used to show names of things.

Use italics for *whole* things.

Movie Titles: *The Evil Dead*

TV Series: *Bob's Burgers*

Book Titles: *The Stranger*

Newspapers: *The New York Times*

Magazines: *Elle*

Use quotation marks for *parts* of things.

Poems: "Hay for the Horses"

Song Titles: "Uptown Funk"

Newspaper or Magazine articles:
"Seven Pumpkin Soups to Make Right Now"

TV episodes: "Bad Tina"

2. Use italics for internal thoughts:

Dialogue (generally no italics needed):

Jimmy walked out of the classroom and heard Martha talking to John. She asked him to go to the dance with her. Jimmy frowned, "I thought Martha liked me."

Internal Thoughts:

Jimmy walked out of the classroom and heard Martha talking to John. She asked him to go to the dance with her. Jimmy frowned. *I thought Martha liked me.*

Your Guess Is as Good as Mine (if not in quotation marks OR italics, reader does not know whether it is dialogue or internal thought):

Jimmy walked out of the classroom and heard Martha talking to John. She asked him to go to the dance with her. Jimmy frowned. I thought Martha liked me.

Don't do that one!

3. Lastly, use italics (not CAPS) to show emphasis:

Correct: "Oh yeah, sure, I *love* working overtime instead of taking my vacation."

Incorrect: "Oh yeah, sure, I **LOVE** working overtime instead of taking my vacation."

Note: This Quick Guide covers a few of the common issues writers face specific to the correct use of italics. It should not be regarded as a comprehensive, end-all resource.

