

Reference 6

Abbreviations

Abbreviations are frequently found in an academic context. Here are some which are common in academic writing.

<i>abbreviation</i>	<i>stands for</i>	<i>example or comment</i>
e.g.	for example (from Latin, <i>exempli gratia</i>)	Many large mammals, e.g. the African elephant, the black rhino and the white rhino ...
i.e.	that is (from Latin, <i>id est</i>)	Higher earners, i.e. those with a monthly salary in excess of £3,000 ...
etc.	and so on (from Latin, <i>et cetera</i>)	Smaller European countries – Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, etc. – had different interests.
NB	note carefully (from Latin, <i>nota bene</i>)	NB You must answer all the questions on this page.
et al	and others (from Latin, <i>et alii</i>)	used when giving bibliographical reference, e.g. as mentioned in T. Potts et al (1995)
ibid.	in the same place as the preceding footnote (from Latin, <i>ibidem</i>)	1 Lee (1987) <i>History of Tea-Drinking in Europe</i> 2 <i>ibid.</i>
cf	compare (from Latin, <i>confer</i>)	cf Löfstedt (2005) for a different approach to this topic
q.v.	which you can see (from Latin, <i>quod vide</i>)	used to refer the reader to another part of a book or article for further information
op. cit.	see previously quoted work by author (from Latin, <i>opus citatum</i>)	Potts op. cit. 33–54
ed.	editor	used when giving bibliographical reference
vol.	volume	used when giving bibliographical reference
p.	page	in the article referred to above (p. 43), Smith claims ...
pp.	pages	See McKinley 1990 pp.11–19

There are also many abbreviations relating to academic degrees, departments, movements and organisations. We give just a few of these as examples below but most of those that you will need will be specific to your own field of study and so space is left for you to add these as you come across them.

<i>abbreviation</i>	<i>stands for</i>	<i>used about</i>
BA	Bachelor of Arts	a first degree in the humanities
MA	Master of Arts	a postgraduate degree in the humanities
BSc	Bachelor of Science	a first degree in a science subject
MSc	Master of Science	a postgraduate degree in a science subject
MBA	Master of Business Administration	a postgraduate business qualification
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy	a postgraduate degree, one which entitles the holder to the title Dr
BEng	Bachelor of Engineering	a first degree in engineering
LLB	Bachelor of Laws	a first degree in law
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society	member of a high level scientific organisation in the UK
BMJ	British Medical Journal	well-known British medical publication

