

Underlining (Italics)

- 15a.** Use underlining (italics) for titles and subtitles of books, plays, periodicals, films, television series, works of art, and long musical works.

When you write the title of a book, a play, a movie, a magazine, a newspaper, or some other major creative work, underline the entire title. A typesetter would set underlined words in *italics*, letters that lean to the right. If you use a computer, you can probably set these titles in italics yourself. Do not underline titles that you have set in italics. Use underlining or italics, but not both.

ITALICIZED	<i>Harvey</i> [play]	<i>The Four Seasons</i> [long musical work]
	<i>North by Northwest</i> [movie]	<i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> [magazine]
	<i>In the Shadow of a Rainbow: The True Story of a Friendship Between Man and Wolf</i> [book]	<i>Frontline</i> [television series]
UNDERLINED	Harvey	The Four Seasons
	North by Northwest	The Atlantic Monthly
	In the Shadow of a Rainbow: The True Story of a Friendship Between Man and Wolf	Frontline

REMINDER The titles of creative works such as books, movies, works of art, songs, articles, and poems are capitalized.

NOTE The titles of poems, songs, short stories, essays, and articles are not underlined or italicized. These titles are set off in quotation marks.

EXAMPLES "Mending Wall" [poem]
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find" [short story]

EXERCISE A Underline any title that should be in italics in each of the following sentences. Be sure to underline every word of the title.

- Examples**
- I have seen It's a Wonderful Life more than five times. [*It's a Wonderful Life* is underlined because it is the title of a movie.]
 - My sister tried out for a part in Our Town. [*Our Town* is underlined because it is the title of a play.]
- Have you read Treasure Island? [What is the title of the book?]
 - Dilbert is my favorite comic strip. [What is the title of the comic strip?]
 - You have probably heard some of the music from Gershwin's long musical work Rhapsody in Blue.
 - Did you read the mummy article in the latest issue of National Geographic?
 - Leonard Bernstein's musical West Side Story is performed often.

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6. The musical was based on a Shakespeare play, *Romeo and Juliet*.
7. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* is the title of a book on our reading list this year.
8. Many people recognize *Water Lilies*, a painting by Claude Monet.
9. I really enjoy watching old episodes of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.
10. The illustrations in David Macaulay's book *Pyramid* are very detailed.

15b. Use underlining (italics) for the names of ships, trains, aircraft, and spacecraft.

The names of ships, trains, aircraft, and spacecraft are underlined or written in italics.

EXAMPLES the Russian space station *Mir* [spacecraft]
the *Titanic* [ship]
the *Empire Builder* [train]
the *Flyer* [airplane]

EXERCISE B Underline any words that should be set in italics in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. The Mayflower was the ship that brought the first Pilgrims to America. [*Mayflower* is underlined because it is the name of a ship.]

11. A train called the Sunset Limited runs all the way from Los Angeles to Florida. [What is the name of the train?]
12. Columbia was the name of the first U. S. space shuttle.
13. The plane that Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic Ocean was named the Spirit of St. Louis.
14. One of Columbus's three ships was called the Santa María.
15. Clipper ships like the Flying Cloud were designed to sail long distances.

EXERCISE C Complete each of the following sentences by writing a title in each blank. Be sure to underline each title.

Example 1. I'd like to learn more about the series of spacecraft called Pathfinder.
[*Pathfinder* is underlined because it is the name of a spacecraft.]

16. My favorite book is _____. [What is the title of a book you like? Should it be underlined?]
17. The funniest movie I've ever seen is _____.
18. A TV show I watched recently is called _____.
19. _____ is the name of a newspaper that tells about current events.
20. _____ is the name of a ship.