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many difficulties as Cheever has, most can *identify* with the 'accidental' manner in which she has gained some important insights." Rosemary Herbert, "Growing Pains," *Boston Herald*, 10 June 2001, at 51.

- *No with*: "Although Accorsi feels for Cleveland fans, he can't really *identify* as he could when the Colts moved." Don Pierson, "Ernie Accorsi Is the Giants' GM but Has Ties to Baltimore's Storied Football Past," *Chicago Trib.*, 19 Jan. 2001, at 1.
- *No with*: "We've all experienced workplace politics . . . It's duplicity and hardball. It's serious emotions. We can *identify*." Diana Lockwood, "Feeling Good," *Columbus Dispatch*, 6 June 2001, at F2 (quoting Mark Burnett, producer of the television series *Survivor*).

In each of those sentences, a more conservative writer (or, in the final example, a more conservative speaker) would probably have used the verb *understand* in place of *identify with* or *identify*.

Here the cant phrase is inappropriately used in reference to early-19th-century historical figures: "In the end, the difference was that Jefferson *identified with* Virginia while Marshall *identified with* the United States." J. Wade Gilley, "University's Namesake Was Great for Many Reasons," *Charleston Gaz.*, 3 Feb. 1997, at A5. Neither Jefferson nor Marshall would have identified with writing like that. Cf. **relate to**.

**ideology**. So spelled. But many writers misunderstand its ETYMOLOGY, believing that the word is somehow derived from our modern word *idea*, and thus misspell it *idealogy*. In fact, like several other words beginning with *ideo-* (e.g., *ideograph*), *ideology* passed into English through French (*idéologie*) and has been spelled *ideo-* in English since the 18th century. Although the bungled spelling has become common enough that it's listed in some dictionaries, that isn't a persuasive defense of its use. Cf. **minuscule**.

**id est**. See **i.e.**

**idiosyncrasy**. So spelled, though often erroneously rendered *-cracy* (as if the word denoted a form of government)—e.g.: "Their *idiosyncrasies* [read *idiosyncrasies*] are patrician." David Margolick, "Similar Histories, and Views, for 2 Court Finalists," *N.Y. Times*, 30 May 1993, at 9.

For the many words properly ending in *-cracy*, see GOVERNMENTAL FORMS.

**idolize; idolatry**. The latter is a NEEDLESS VARIANT. E.g.: "We're free, free at last from the bombardment of the media for the Super Bowl and the *idolatrizing* [read *idolizing*] of the combatants." "Glad Football Idolatry Over," *Ariz. Republic*, 3 Feb. 1996, at B6.

**I doubt that; I doubt whether; I doubt if**. See **doubt** (A).

**idyll**. **A. Spelling and Pronunciation**. *Idyll* (= [1] a poem or prose composition depicting rustic simplicity; or [2] a narrative, esp. in verse, resembling a brief epic) is the standard spelling. *Idyl* is a variant form. Either way, the word is pronounced /ɪ-dəl/, like *idle*.

**B. Adjective Misused**. *Idyllic* = of, belonging to, or resembling an idyll; full of pastoral charm or rustic picturesqueness. E.g.: "But after a pretend visit to Antarctica, it's easy in Christchurch to decide to spend most of your time outdoors, especially on an *idyllic* spring day in November." Millie Ball, "Take a Boat Ride to Christchurch, New Zealand," *Times-Picayune* (New Orleans), 26 Jan. 2003, Travel §, at 1. The word is often misused as if it meant *ideal*—e.g.:

- "She admits juggling motherhood and career didn't turn out to be quite as *idyllic* [read *ideal*] as she had planned." Tom Hopkins, "Cathy's Struggles Never End," *Dayton Daily News*, 22 Feb. 1997, at C1.
- "The setting couldn't be more *idyllic* [read *ideal*] for Marcus Allen. It's Super Bowl week in his hometown of San Diego." Randy Covitz, "Allen Would Feel Right at Home if He Makes It into Hall of Fame," *Kansas City Star*, 25 Jan. 2003, Sports §, at 1.

**-IE**. See DIMINUTIVES (G).

**i.e. A. Generally**. The abbreviation for *id est* (L. "that is") introduces explanatory phrases or clauses. Although the abbreviation is appropriate in some scholarly contexts, the phrase *that is* or the word *namely* is more comprehensible to the average reader.

**B. And e.g.** *I.e.* is frequently confounded with *e.g.* (= "for example")—e.g.:

- "Our increased expectation is due to the company growing its presence in the \$2 billion U.S. meal-replacement market through increased advertising in national magazines (*i.e.* [read *e.g.*] *People*, *Readers Digest*, *Parade*) and newspapers (*i.e.* [read *e.g.*] *Globe and Enquirer*)." Taglich Brothers, "How Analysts Size Up Companies," *Barrons*, 18 Nov. 2002, at 35 (that use of *i.e.* indicates that advertising will not be placed in other magazines and newspapers).
- "The production staff and Gateway reps huddle. They shoot a screen test of a fuller-figured blonde cast as an extra and decide that she—with some work (*i.e.* [read *e.g.*], unless that was all the work needed), ditch the suede pants—looks more like a mom." Frank Ahrens, "Gateway Ditches Cow Motif for a Sleeker Image," *Miami Herald*, 18 Nov. 2002, at 27.
- "I have many electrical items that no longer work, *i.e.* [read *e.g.*]: cameras, video recorder, outlet strip, video rewinder, to name a few." Sandy Shelton, in question to "Post Your Problems," *Pitt. Post-Gaz.*, 19 Nov. 2002, at A14 (and, since *e.g.* means "for example," *to name a few* is redundant).

See **e.g.**

**C. Style and Usage**. As with other familiar

abbreviations of Latin phrases such as *etc.*, *et al.*, and *e.g.* (and despite their appearance here, where they are being discussed as terms), *i.e.* is not italicized <the state capital, *i.e.*, Jefferson City>. And like the others, it is best confined to lists, parenthetical matter, footnotes, and citations rather than used in text, where some substitute such as *namely* is more natural <the state capital, which is Jefferson City>.

Formerly it was said that in speaking or reading, the abbreviation should be rendered *id est*. But this is never heard today, whereas the abbreviated letters *i.e.* are occasionally heard.

**D. Punctuation.** Generally, a comma follows *i.e.* in AmE (though not in BrE). E.g.:

- “The implicit assumption is that the fountains were designed for some wading—*i.e.*, ‘interactive’ participation.” “Tempest in a Memorial Pool,” *Wash. Post*, 3 Aug. 1997, at C8.
- “There was absolutely no need for any U.S. network to ‘cover’ (*i.e.*, ‘interpret’) the funeral.” Letter of Mary L. Spencer, “Too Much Talk,” *Indianapolis Star*, 2 Oct. 1997, at E7.

**I enjoyed myself.** Though pedants sometimes criticize this idiom as hopelessly illogical (which it is), it is standard—e.g.:

- “And *I enjoyed myself*, so it doesn’t seem that I failed.” Dan McGrath, “For Better or Worse, This Gig Was Fun,” *Sacramento Bee*, 20 Aug. 1995, at A2.
- “In all, *I really enjoyed myself*, even if there was no yapping.” Tony Kornheiser, “I May Not Know Opera, but I Know a Major Babe When I See One,” *Rocky Mountain News*, 26 Jan. 1997, at B6.
- “*I enjoyed myself* and the children seemed to enjoy listening to me read.” Frank Roberts, “Reading to Children Takes Real Talent,” *Virginian-Pilot* (Norfolk), 17 Aug. 1997, *Suffolk Sun* §, at 7.

For some similar idioms, see ILLOGIC (A).

**if. A. And whether.** It’s good editorial practice to distinguish between these words. Use *if* for a conditional idea, *whether* for an alternative or possibility. Thus, *Let me know if you’ll be coming* means that I want to hear from you only if you’re coming. But *Let me know whether you’ll be coming* means that I want to hear from you about your plans one way or the other.

**B. If, and only if.** This adds nothing but unnecessary emphasis (and perhaps a rhetorical flourish) to *only if*. E.g.: “Such a ‘homocentrist’ position takes the human species to define the boundaries of the moral community; you are morally considerable *if, and only if, [read only if]* you are a member of the human species.” Colin McGinn, “Beyond Prejudice,” *New Republic*, 8 Apr. 1996, at 39. The variation *if, but only if*, which sometimes occurs in legal writing, is unnecessary and even nonsensical for *only if*.

**C. For though, even if, or and.** Some writers use *if* in an oddly precious way—to mean

“though,” “though perhaps,” “even if,” or even “and.” Though several dictionaries record this use, it’s not recommended because it typically carries a tone of affectedness—e.g.:

- “On one level of analysis these are unrelated ‘accidents.’ But on another they are concrete, *if [read though]* mainly unconscious and uncoordinated, responses to industry’s need for concentrated and specialized learning.” Richard Ohmann, *English in America* 289 (1976).
- “Their presentation is passionate; their prose hectic, *if [read and]* occasionally hectoring; their Darwin ambitious, angry and agitated.” Roy Porter, “Devil’s Chaplain,” *Sunday Times* (London), 29 Sept. 1991, § 7, at 3.

Cf. **if not.**

**if and when. A. Generally.** The single word *when* typically conveys everything this three-word phrase does. Although the full idiom does emphasize both conditionality and temporality, if a thing is done at a certain time it is *ipso facto* done. Still, the phrase helpfully sets up two conditions: (1) I won’t perform my duty unless you perform yours, and (2) don’t expect me to go first. As a popular idiom, *if and when* is not likely to disappear just for the sake of brevity.

**B. And when and if.** Perhaps in an attempt to get out of a rhetorical rut, some writers reverse these words and make the phrase *when and if* with no change in nuance intended. But that construction loses any logical value the original may have had—*when* the thing is done, there is no further question about *if* it will be done. Some other phrasing is usually advisable—e.g.:

- “Lawmakers should have a right to determine *when and if [read when]* such a tax should be considered.” “Local Assessors Require Oversight,” *Sunday Advocate* (Baton Rouge), 28 July 2002, at B8.
- “But with only a little bit of light from their dwindling lamps, miners could never tell *when or if [read whether]* the water was coming back at them.” Guy Gugliotta, “In a Flooded Coal Mine, 3 Days of Waiting, Praying,” *Wash. Post*, 29 July 2002, at A1.
- “*When and if [read If]* Gonzalez signs a new contract, Dunn is a backup again.” Adam Teicher, “Chiefs Won’t Ask Dunn to Be Another Gonzalez,” *Kansas City Star*, 30 July 2002.

*When and if* can have a distinct nuance, however, by emphasizing that the event may never happen. Punctuation can help—e.g.: “The investment is usable, however, *only when—and if—you take the profits out.*” Jane Bryant Quinn, “Home Sweet Piggy Bank?” *Newsweek*, 29 July 2002, at 58.

*When not* is substituted for *and*, the construction emphasizes the inevitability of the event at some point—e.g.: “And he’s the only one making arguments from the perspective of the men and women who will run into those buildings *when*