

# AMA Manual of Style

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## Non-English Words, Phrases, and Accent Marks

Brenda Gregoline

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Some words and phrases derived from other languages have become part of standard English usage. Those that have not should be italicized (see 22.0, *Typography*), and usually a definition should be given. Consult standard medical dictionaries and the most recent edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary for guidance. A public health investigation revealed that the source of lead exposure was *hai ge fen* (clamshell powder), 1 of the 36 ingredients of the Chinese herbal medicine. *In Vitro Susceptibility Testing of Antifungal Agents* Medical information and advice abound on the Internet, but remember: *Caveat lector*. Lorenz Böhler, the son of a carpenter, eventually became the *praeceptor traumatologiae totus mundi* (teacher of traumatology in the whole world)...

## Accent Marks (Diacritics)

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An accent mark (diacritic), when added to a letter, indicates a phonetic value different from that of the unmarked letter. English words once spelled with accent marks (eg, *cooperate*, *preeminent*) now are written and printed without them. Consult the most recent edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary to resolve questions about whether a word should retain its accent. In general, English words in common usage should be spelled without diacritical marks. Accent marks should always be retained in the following instances: # Proper names *Dr Bönne*man is a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. # When it is desirable to show the correct

## Use of Italics

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## Capitalization and Punctuation

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Non-English words should be capitalized and non-English phrases punctuated according to that language's standard of correctness. Follow language dictionaries and *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

## Translation of Titles

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Non-English titles mentioned in text may be translated or not, at the author's discretion. If the original title is used, an English translation should be given parenthetically, except in cases in which the work is considered well known. Both the English translation of the title (if given) and the non-English title should be italicized for books, journals, plays, works of art, television and radio programs, long poems, films, and musical compositions. Stendahl's *Le rouge et le noir* (*The Red and the Black*) is required reading for all third-year students. *Tratamiento de la hipertension* (*Treatment of Hypertension*) Andreas Vesalius' 16th-century masterpiece *De*