**1. Focus**

**Explain Words in Italics**

*Say:* Writers use italics for many different reasons. One use of italics is to indicate the title of a book or magazine. Italics can also be used to indicate words as words. For example, if I wrote, “The meaning of the word *joyful* is happy,” I would italicize the word *joyful*.

**Model Using Words in Italics**

Display the following text (without the underlining) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students.

1. In her book *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, she writes that for centuries, people believed that being right-handed was superior.
2. For example, the word *dexter* means “right.”

**Modeling Text**

*After sentence 1.* *Say:* In the first sentence, the words *her book* are followed by a capitalized series of words. This tells me it’s the title of a book, so I need to put *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain in italics*. Underline or italicize *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*.

*After sentence 2.* *Say:* In the second sentence, the words run together, and I don’t really understand what the author means by a word *dexter*. But when I realize that the word *dexter* is used as a word and put it in italics, the sentence is much easier to read. (Underline or italicize *dexter*.) By using italics for these purposes, I make the sentences easier to understand. I can tell at a glance that the phrase in the first sentence is a book title. And the italics make the meaning of the second sentence clearer.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Words in Italics

Display the practice text (without the underlining) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to work with partners to tell which words should be in italics. (Students do not need to copy the sentences.)

A sinister person (the Latin word for “left”) is evil and creepy.
There are many interesting informational articles in Time for Kids.

Practice Text

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with Words in Italics

Invite pairs to share their results. Discuss their responses. Ask the following questions:
- Why do the word or words need to be in italics?
- How do the italics make the sentences easier to understand?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that italics can be used to show words used as words and to show the titles of books and magazines. Use italics for these features to make your informational writing easier to read and understand.

If you would like to give students additional practice using words in italics, have them complete BLM 10.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to read aloud their answers to BLM 10. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning
Understanding the use of italics to indicate words as words might be too difficult for beginning ELs. Instead, focus on using italics to indicate titles. Show students the cover of a book or magazine. Then use the title in a sentence and write it on chart paper. Point out the capital letters in the book and periodical titles. Underline the title words that should be italicized. Repeat with other books and magazines.

Intermediate and Advanced
Provide simple sentences to help ELs use words in italics. For example:

The book is called A Tale of Two Cities.
The word robust means “strong.” I read a story in Cricket.

All Levels
If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share this English/Spanish cognate: title/el título.