

EXAMPLES

In our daily conversation, we often provide *examples*--that is, details, particulars, specific instances --to explain statements that we make. Here are several statements and supporting examples:

The first day of school was frustrating. My sociology course was cancelled. Then, I couldn't find the biology lab. And the lines at the bookstore were so long that I went home without buying my textbooks.

That washing machine is unreliable. The water temperature can't be predicted; it stops in mid-cycle, and it sometimes shreds my clothing.

My grandfather is a thrifty person. He washes and reuses aluminum foil. He wraps gifts in newspaper. And he's worn the same Sunday suit for twenty years.

In each case, the examples help us see for ourselves the truth of the statement that has been made. In essays, too, explanatory examples help your audience fully understand your point. Lovely, specific examples also add interest to your paper.

Problems with My Apartment

They say there's no place like home. In my case, that is probably a good thing. My apartment has given me nothing but headaches. From the day I signed the lease. I've had to deal with an uncooperative landlord, an incompetent janitor, and inconsiderate neighbors.

First of all, my landlord has been uncooperative....

I've had a problem not only with my landlord but also with an incompetent janitor....

Perhaps the worst hassle of all has been with the inconsiderate neighbors who live in the apartments above me....

Sometimes, my apartment seems like a small, friendly oasis surrounded by hostile enemies. I never know what side trouble is going to come from next: the landlord, the janitor, or the neighbors. Home may be where the heart is, but my sanity is thinking about moving out.