

Types of Examples: Brief, Extended, and Hypothetical

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WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about the different types of examples you can use as support. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

1. Types of Examples
 - a. Brief Examples
 - b. Extended Examples
 - c. Hypothetical Examples

1. Types of Examples

There are many types of examples that a presenter can use to help an audience better understand a topic and the key points of a presentation.

These include specific situations, problems, or stories intended to help communicate a more general idea.

There are three main types of examples:

- Brief
- Extended
- Hypothetical

1a. Brief Examples

Brief examples are used to further illustrate a point that may not be immediately obvious to all audience members but is not so complex that it requires a more lengthy example.

Brief examples can be used by the presenter as an aside or on its own.

IN CONTEXT

A presenter may use a brief example in a presentation on politics in explaining the Electoral College.

Since many people are familiar with how the Electoral College works, the presenter may just mention that the Electoral College is based on population and a brief example of how it is used to determine an election. In this situation it would not be necessary for a presenter to go into a lengthy explanation of the process of the Electoral College since many people are familiar with the process.

1b. Extended Examples

Extended examples are used when a presenter is discussing a more complicated topic that they think their audience may be unfamiliar with. In an extended example, a speaker may want to use a chart, graph, or other visual aid to help the audience understand the example.

IN CONTEXT

An instance in which an extended example could be used includes a presentation in which a speaker is explaining how the "time value of money" principle works in finance. Since this is a concept that people unfamiliar with finance may not immediately understand, a speaker will want to use an equation and other visual aids to further help the audience understand this principle.

An extended example will likely take more time to explain than a brief example and will be about a more complex topic.

$$AFC = \frac{FC}{Q}$$

Extended Example

An equation is an extended example that's used as a visual aid to help the audience understand a complicated topic.

1c. Hypothetical Examples

A **hypothetical** example is a fictional example that can be used when a speaker is explaining a complicated topic that makes the most sense when it is put into more realistic or relatable terms.

IN CONTEXT

For instance, if a presenter is discussing statistical probability, instead of explaining probability in terms of equations, it may make more sense for the presenter to make up a hypothetical example. This could be a story about a girl, Annie, picking 10 pieces of candy from a bag of 50 pieces of candy in which half are blue and half are red and then determining Annie's probability of pulling out 10 total pieces of red candy.

A hypothetical example helps the audience to better visualize a topic and relate to the point of the presentation more effectively.



TERM TO KNOW

Hypothetical

A fictional situation or proposition used to explain a complicated subject.



SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned that examples include specific situations, problems or stories intended to help communicate a more general idea. There are three main **types of examples**. **Brief examples** are used to further illustrate a point that may not be immediately obvious to all audience members but is not so complex that it requires a more lengthy example. **Extended examples** are used when a presenter is discussing a more complicated topic that they think their audience may be unfamiliar with. **Hypothetical examples** are fictional examples that can be used when a speaker is explaining a complicated topic that makes the most sense when it is put into more realistic or relatable terms.

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TERMS TO KNOW

Hypothetical

A fictional situation or proposition used to explain a complicated subject.