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**APA In-Text Citations (7th Edition)**

**What is an in-text citation?**

* In APA Style, an in-text citation tells the reader where you got any and all information that did not come from inside your own head. In other words, in APA, in-text citations are inserted in the text of your research paper to briefly document the source of your information. This is more obvious when you are directly quoting from a source, but it is also needed when you have summarised or paraphrased from a source and even if you got an idea from somewhere else.
* When citing sources in an APA Style paper, APA uses the *author-date* citation system. In this system, the writer includes the author and date within the body of the paper and includes a corresponding reference in the reference list. This citation system allows the reader to identify sources used in the paper by reviewing the author and date within the text of the paper, and then easily locate the corresponding reference in the alphabetical reference list.
* For APA, you use the author’s last name only and the year in text. If you are using a direct quote, you will also need to use a page number.

**Everything must match!**

Remember, you have to cite every piece of information that came from another source, whether or not it is in your own words. Everything cited in the text must appear in the reference list, and everything in your reference list must be something you have referred to in text. Make sure you do not have anything in one place that is not in the other.

**Types of in-text citations**

There are two types of in-text citations that are used within the body of an APA paper: *parenthetical citations* and *narrative citations*.

1 Narrative - the author name appears in running text and the date appears in parentheses immediately after the author name.

* Becker (2013) defined gamification as giving the mechanics of principles of a game to other activities.
* Cho and Castañeda (2019) noted that game-like activities are frequently used in language classes that adopt mobile and computer technologies.

2 Parenthetical - the author name with the rest of the citation details appear in parentheses.

* Gamification involves giving the mechanics or principles of a game to another activity (Becker, 2013).
* Increasingly, game-like activities are frequently used in language classes that adopt mobile and computer technologies (Cho & Castañeda, 2019).

**Basic In-Text Citation Styles**

The table below shows several examples of parenthetical and narrative citations.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Author Type | Narrative Citation Example | Parenthetical Citation Example |
| **One Author**  First citation  Subsequent citations | Smith (2020) found that "the mice disappeared within minutes" (p. 29).  Smith (2020) | The author stated "the mice disappeared within minutes" (Smith, 2020, p. 29).  Smith (2020) |
| **Two Authors**  First citation  Subsequent citations | Separate the authors’ names with “and”  Smith and Jones (2019)  Smith and Jones (2019) | Separate the authors’ names with an ampersand (&)  (Smith & Jones, 2019)  (Smith & Jones, 2019) |
| **Three or more Authors**: use the first author and "et al." for all in-text citations  First citation  Subsequent citations | Carlson et al. (2018)  Carlson et al. (2018)  Green et al.'s (2019) findings indicated that the intervention was not based on evidence from clinical trials. | (Carlson et al., 2018)  (Carlson et al., 2018)  It appears the intervention was not based on evidence from clinical trials (Green et al., 2019). |
| **Group Author with Abbreviation**  **First citation**  **Subsequent citations:**  In the second and subsequent citations, only include the abbreviation or acronym  **Note:** In the rare case that two different groups abbreviate to the same form (e.g., both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association abbreviate to “APA”) and you cite both groups in your paper, provide the full name for each group every time you cite to avoid confusion. | If the group name first appears in a narrative citation, include the abbreviation before the year in brackets, separated with a comma. Use the official acronym/abreviation if you can find it.  -The College of St. Scholastica (CSS, 2019)  -Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, 2013) shows that...  - CSS (2019)  -ABS (2013) found that ... | If the group name first appears in a citation in brackets, include the abbreviation in square brackets, followed by a comma and the year.  -(The College of St. Scholastica [CSS], 2019)  -(Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], 2013)  -(CSS, 2019)  -This is disputed (ABS, 2013). |
| **Group Author without Abbreviation**  **First citation**  **Subsequent citations** | University of Wisconsin (2019)  University of Wisconsin (2019) | (University of Wisconsin, 2018)  (University of Wisconsin, 2018) |

**Avoiding Ambiguity in In-Text Citations**

Sometimes multiple works with three or more authors and the same publication year shorten to the same in-text citation form when the APA guidelines described in the previous section are applied, which creates ambiguity. To avoid ambiguity, when the in-text citations of multiple works with three or more authors shorten to the same form, write out as many names as needed to distinguish the references, and abbreviate the rest of the names to “et al.” in every citation. For example, two works have the following authors:

Kapoor, Bloom, Montez, Warner, and Hill (2017)

Kapoor, Bloom, Zucker, Tang, Köroğlu, L’Enfant, Kim, and Daly (2017)

Both these citations shorten to Kapoor et al. (2017). To avoid ambiguity when citing them both in your paper, cite them as

follows:

Kapoor, Bloom, Montez, et al. (2017)

Kapoor, Bloom, Zucker, et al. (2017)

Because “et al.” is plural (meaning “and others”), it cannot stand for only one name. When only the final author is different, spell out all names in every citation.

Hasan, Liang, Kahn, and Jones-Miller (2015)

Hasan, Liang, Kahn, and Weintraub (2015)

**Citing Multiple Works**

* If a statement is supported by multiple sources, the in-text citations can be combined in one parenthesis. Order the sources alphabetically, and separate them with a semi-colon.

*Parenthetical Citation:*

* (Corbin, 2015; James & Waterson, 2017; Smith et al., 2016).
* (Adams et al., 2019; Shumway & Shulman, 2015; Westinghouse, 2017)

***Narrative Citation:*** Multiple works that are incorporated into the narrative of a sentence, can appear in any order.

* Suliman (2018), Gutiérrez (2012, 2017), and Medina and Reyes (2019) examined . . .
* Sun and Yang (2016), Gold et al. (2018), and Murphy (2012) found that …
* Arrange two or more works by the same author(s) by year of publication. Place a citation with no date first, followed by works with dates in *chronological order*; an in-press citation appears last. Give the author’s surname once; for each subsequent work, give only the date.
* Zhou (n.d., 2000, 2016, in press)
* If the citation contains works by the same author and the same year, add a lowercase letter after the date. In your reference list, you will have arranged the works alphabetically by title. This decides which reference is "a", "b", "c", and so on. You cite them in text accordingly:
* (Department of Veterans Affairs, n.d., 2017a, 2017b, 2019)
* (Nazari, 2017a, 2017b)

**Authors with the Same Surname**

When you have multiple authors with the same surname who published in the same year:

* If your authors have different initials, then include the initials:
* As A. Smith (2016) noted...
* ...which was confirmed by J.G. Smith's (2016) study.
* (A. Smith, 2016; J. G. Smith, 2016).
* If your authors have the same initials, then include the name:
* As Adam Smith noted...
* ...which was confirmed by Amy Smith's (2016) study.
* (Adam Smith, 2016; Amy Smith, 2016).
* If the first authors of multiple references share the same surname but have different initials, include the first authors’ initials in all in-text citations, even if the year of publication differs.
* (J. M. Taylor & Neimeyer, 2015; T. Taylor, 2014)
* (K. Singh, 2018; M. Singh & Kumar, 2020)
* If multiple authors within a single reference share the same surname, the initials are not needed in the in-text citation; cite the work in the standard author–date format.
* (Chen & Chen, 2019)
* Willis and Willis (2017) categorized speaking as an interpersonal skill and writing as the transactional skill.

**Citing Specific Parts of a Source**

To cite a specific part of a source, provide an author–date citation for the work plus information about the specific part. There are many possible parts to cite, including

* other work;
* chapters, forewords, or other sections of authored books;
* slide numbers in PowerPoint presentations.

For religious works with canonically numbered parts common across editions (e.g., books, chapters, or Surahs, and verse or Ayaat, lines), cite the part instead of a page number.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019, p. 10)

(Shimamura, 2017, Chapter 3)

(Armstrong, 2015, pp. 3–17)

(Shadid, 2020, paras. 2–3)

(Kovačič & Horvat, 2019, Table 1)

(Thompson, 2020, Slide 7)

(Quran, 2:4-5)

**Unknown or Anonymous Author**

When the author of a work is not named, the author may be unknown (i.e., no author is listed on the work, as with a religious work) or identified specifically as “Anonymous.”

* For works with an unknown author, include the title and year of publication in the in-text citation (note that the title moves to the author position in the reference list entry as well). If the title of the work is italicized in the reference, also italicize the title in the in-text citation. If the title of the work is not italicized in the reference, use double quotation marks around the title in the in-text citation. Capitalize these titles in the text. If the title is long, shorten it for the in-text citation.
* **Book with no author:** (*Interpersonal Skills*, 2019)
* **Magazine article with no author:** (“Understanding Sensory Memory,” 2018)
* Parenthetical Citation: (“Confirmation Bias,” 2020)

Narrative Citation: “Confirmation Bias” (2020)

* When the author of a work is identified as “Anonymous”, “Anonymous” takes the place of the author name in the in-text citation.
* (Anonymous, 2017)

**Work without a date**

The date used in the in-text citation should correspond to the publication date used in the reference list entry. Only include the year in the in-text citation, even if the reference list entry contains a more specific date (e.g., month and year). For references that have no date (n.d.), format the in-text citation as follows:

* Parenthetical Citation: (Moreau, n.d.)
* Narrative Citation: Moreau (n.d.)

**Secondary sources**

* Sometimes an author of a book, article or website will mention another person’s work by using a quotation or paraphrased idea from that source. The work that is mentioned in the article you are reading is called the primary source. The article you are reading is called the secondary source.
* For example, suppose you are reading an article by Brown (2014) that cites information from an article by Snow (1982) that you would like to include in your essay. For the reference list, you will only make a citation for the secondary source (Brown). You do not put in a citation for the primary source (Snow) in the reference list. For the in-text citation, you identify the primary source (Snow) and then write "as cited in" the secondary source (Brown). If you know the year of the publication of the primary source, include it in the in-text citation. Otherwise, you can omit it.
* According to a study by Snow (1982, as cited in Brown, 2014), 75% of students believe that teachers should not assign nightly homework.

Note: If you do not have the publication date of Snow's article, you just omit it like this:

* According to a study by Snow (as cited in Brown, 2014), 75% of students believe that teachers should not assign nightly homework.

*Further examples:*

* In fact, 75% of students believe that teachers should not assign nightly homework (Snow, 1982, as cited in Brown, 2014).
* Snow (1982, as cited in Brown, 2014) concluded that "nightly homework is a great stressor for many students" (p.34).

References

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American psychological association (7 th ed.).* American Psychological association.

APA citation guide (7th edition): In-text citation. Retreived from <https://columbiacollege-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=713274&p=5082934>

APA (7th Edition) referencing guide: Guide to APA citation style using the 7th edition of the APA style manual. Retreived from https://libguides.jcu.edu.au/apa/in-text#s-lg-box-21191681