Using Cross-References In Microsoft Word

This tutorial is relevant to Word 2007 and newer.

A cross-reference is a tool in Microsoft Word that links parts of a document together. Most commonly, cross-references are used to reference tables and figures in the body of the document. The cross-reference control is found on the **References** tab in the **Captions** group (see Figure 1).

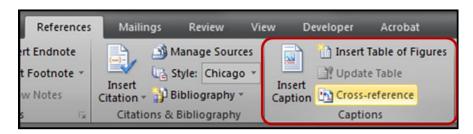


Figure 1: Cross-Reference control on the References tab

CREATING A CROSS-REFERENCE

Before creating a cross-reference, you will need an object to reference. In this example, we will caption an image

- 1. Place an image in the body of your document.
- 2. Right-click the image and select **Insert Caption** to open the **Caption** dialog (Figure 2).

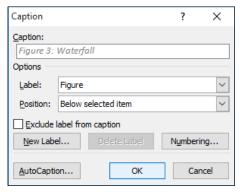


Figure 2: Caption dialog

- 3. The Caption dialog gives a few options for labeling and placement. It also auto-numbers the caption.
- 4. Write a caption and click **OK**. The caption now appears below the image, as you can see below in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Keypad



- 5. To reference the image in your text, put your cursor where you would like to insert the reference to the image.
- Click on the References tab and click Cross-reference to open the Cross-reference dialog (Figure 4<u>Error!</u> Reference source not found.).

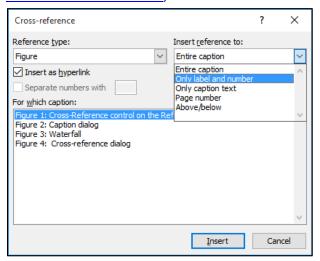


Figure 4: Cross-reference dialog

- 7. Cross-references are inserted into the text as hyperlinks by default. If you do not want your cross-reference to appear as a hyperlink, unmark the **Insert as hyperlink** checkbox on the **Cross-reference** dialog. The cross-reference will still link to the item in the document, but it will no longer have hyperlink formatting.
- 8. Using the **Reference type** dropdown, choose the type of reference you are linking to. Tables, figures, equations, paragraphs, footnotes, and endnotes are among the reference types available.
- 9. Choose which text to include from the caption using the **Insert reference to** dropdown.
- 10. Choose the caption to link to in the For which caption list.
- 11. Click Insert to insert the reference.

UPDATING A CROSS-REFERENCE

If you need to insert a new figure into the body of the document, or if you need to move a referenced figure to another location, you will need to update your references. You can update either a single reference or the entire document.

To update a single reference, right-click on the reference and select **Update Field** from the context menu. To update all references in the document, **Select all** (Ctrl+A), right-click, and select **Update Field** from the context menu.