Formatting Harvard In-Text Citations

General Rules

Cite all your sources. When you use information from any sources in your paper, you must provide in-text citations to show where that info came from. Otherwise, your text will be considered plagiarized.

General appearance of in-text citations. In Harvard citation style, in-text citations are parenthetical, consisting of the author’s surname and the year of publication. They look like this: (Smith and Johnson 2018). You may also include the page number, like so: (Smith and Johnson 2018, p. 35).

Direct quotes. In Harvard referencing system, if you provide exact words from some source, you must place that quote in quotation marks, and give the page number in your in-text citation. If you quote a website, you need to include the number of the paragraph the words are taken from, like this: (Smith and Johnson 2018, para. 4). Just count the paragraphs on the web page you are citing.

Mentioning authors in the text. If you mention the name of the authors in the text, do not include it in parentheses. Also, use the word “and” instead of the ampersand (&). For example, you may write: In their book, Smith and Johnson (2018, p. 15) claim that jumping from a skyscraper might be bad for your health.

Citing an author discussed in a different source. If you are referring to an author who is discussed in a secondary source, you should mention the name of the original author, but state that this author is “cited in” the source you are using. For example, if Kraut discusses Plato, you can say:

Plato believed that the existence of the soul is independent of the body it inhabits (cited in Kraut 2017).

Note: in this case, you will have to provide a bibliographic entry for Kraut and not for Plato in the Reference List.

Several sources in one citation. If you wish to cite several sources in one set of parentheses, you should list them in the same order as they appear in your Reference List, and use a semicolon to separate them, like this: (Johnson 2015; Smith 2014).

Different Types of In-Text Citations + Examples

In Harvard referencing, in-text citations look different depending on the number of the authors in your source. We provide two Harvard referencing examples for each case: in one, the source is not mentioned in the text, and in the other, it is.

**One Author**

It is recommended to clean your teeth after dinner (Anderson 2015).

Anderson (2015) recommends cleaning your teeth after dinner.

**Two Authors**

Some students may actually enjoy writing papers (Ironicous and Sarcastish 2016).

According to Ironicous and Sarcastish (2016), some students may actually enjoy writing papers.

**Three Authors**

Gas giants do not have a hard surface (Peachy, Fluffy and Cozy 2014).

According to Peachy, Fluffy and Cozy (2014), gas giants do not have a hard surface.

**Four or More Authors**

Punishing children physically is considered an extremely harmful practice (Kickbutt et al. 2016).

Kickbutt et al. (2016) states that punishing children physically is an extremely harmful practice.