



7th Edition APA Citation Format

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APA in-text citations

In-text citations are brief references in the running text that direct readers to the reference entry at the end of the paper. You include them every time you quote or paraphrase someone else's ideas or words to avoid plagiarism.

An APA in-text citation consists of the author's last name and the year of publication (also known as the author-date system). If you're citing a specific part of a source, you should also include a locator such as a page number or timestamp.

For example: (Smith, 2020, p. 170).

Parenthetical vs. narrative citation

The in-text citation can take two forms: parenthetical and narrative.

- **Parenthetical citation:** According to new research ... (Smith, 2020).
- **Narrative citation:** Smith (2020) notes that ...

Multiple authors and corporate authors

The in-text citation changes slightly when a source has multiple authors or an organization as an author. Pay attention to punctuation and the use of the ampersand (&) symbol.

Author type	Parenthetical citation	Narrative citation
One author	(Smith, 2020)	Smith (2020)
Two authors	(Smith & Jones, 2020)	Smith and Jones (2020)
Three or more authors	(Smith et al., 2020)	Smith et al. (2020)
Organization	(Scribbr, 2020)	Scribbr (2020)



Missing information

When the author, publication date or locator is unknown, take the steps outlined below.

Missing element	What to do	Parenthetical citation
Author	Use the source title.*	(<i>Source Title</i> , 2020)
Date	Write “n.d.” for “no date”.	(Smith, n.d.)
Page number	Either use an alternative locator or omit the page number.	(Smith, 2020, Chapter 3) or (Smith, 2020)

**Format the title in the same way as in the corresponding reference entry (either italicized or, if the title in the reference entry is not italicized, placed in quotation marks). Use title case capitalization. For court cases, use italics in the in-text citation but not in the reference entry.*

APA references

APA references generally include information about the author, publication date, title, and source. Depending on the type of source, you may have to include extra information that helps your reader locate the source.

Reference examples

Citing a source starts with choosing the correct reference format. Pay close attention to punctuation, capitalization, and italicization.

Book	Reference entry ⓘ Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (Edition ed.). Publisher. https://URL
2nd edition	
1 author	In-text citation ⓘ Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name, Year of publication) Narrative: Author's Last Name (Year of publication)
URL	

Journal article	Reference entry ⓘ Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). Title of article. <i>Title of Journal</i> , Volume(Issue), Pages. https://URL
1 author	
URL	In-text citation ⓘ Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name, Year of publication) Narrative: Author's Last Name (Year of publication)



Online (YouTube) v

Individual author v

Reference entry

Last Name, Initial(s). [Channel]. (Year, Month Day of publication).
Title of video [Video]. Website. <https://URL>

In-text citation

Parenthetical: (Last Name, Year of publication)

Narrative: Last Name (Year of publication)

Webpage v

1 author v

Year v

Reference entry

Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). *Title of work*.
Website. <https://URL>

In-text citation

Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name, Year of publication)

Narrative: Author's Last Name (Year of publication)

Newspaper article v

1 author v

Year v

URL v

Reference entry

Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). *Title of article*.
Newspaper. <https://URL>

In-text citation

Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name, Year of publication)

Narrative: Author's Last Name (Year of publication)

Dictionary entry v

2nd edition v

1 author v

No editor v

Year v

URL v

Reference entry

Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). Word. In
Dictionary. Publisher. <https://URL>

In-text citation

Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name, Year of publication)

Narrative: Author's Last Name (Year of publication)



Book	▼	Reference entry ⓘ Author's Last Name, Initial(s), & Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (Edition ed.). Publisher. https://URL
2nd edition	▼	
2 authors	▼	
URL	▼	In-text citation ⓘ Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name & Author's Last Name, Year of publication) Narrative: Author's Last Name and Author's Last Name (Year of publication)
Journal article	▼	Reference entry ⓘ Author's Last Name, Initial(s), & Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). <i>Title of article</i> . <i>Title of Journal</i> , Volume(Issue), Pages. https://URL
2 authors	▼	
URL	▼	In-text citation ⓘ Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name & Author's Last Name, Year of publication) Narrative: Author's Last Name and Author's Last Name (Year of publication)
Webpage	▼	Reference entry ⓘ Author's Last Name, Initial(s), & Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). <i>Title of work</i> . Website. https://URL
2 authors	▼	
Year	▼	In-text citation ⓘ Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name & Author's Last Name, Year of publication) Narrative: Author's Last Name and Author's Last Name (Year of publication)
Newspaper article	▼	Reference entry ⓘ Author's Last Name, Initial(s), & Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). <i>Title of article</i> . <i>Newspaper</i> . https://URL
2 authors	▼	
Year	▼	
URL	▼	In-text citation ⓘ Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name & Author's Last Name, Year of publication) Narrative: Author's Last Name and Author's Last Name (Year of publication)



- Dictionary entry ▾
- 2nd edition ▾
- 2 authors ▾
- No editor ▾
- Year ▾
- URL ▾

Reference entry ⓘ

Author's Last Name, Initial(s)., & Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). *Word*. In *Dictionary*. Publisher. <https://URL>

In-text citation ⓘ

Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name & Author's Last Name, Year of publication)

Narrative: Author's Last Name and Author's Last Name (Year of publication)

- Book ▾
- 2nd edition ▾
- 3+ authors ▾
- URL ▾

Reference entry ⓘ

Author's Last Name, Initial(s)., Author's Last Name, Initial(s)., & Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). *Title of book* (Edition ed.). Publisher. <https://URL>

In-text citation ⓘ

Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name et al., Year of publication)

Narrative: Author's Last Name et al. (Year of publication)

- Journal article ▾
- 3+ authors ▾
- URL ▾

Reference entry ⓘ

Author's Last Name, Initial(s)., Author's Last Name, Initial(s)., & Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). *Title of article*. *Title of Journal*, Volume(Issue), Pages. <https://URL>

In-text citation ⓘ

Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name et al., Year of publication)

Narrative: Author's Last Name et al. (Year of publication)

- Webpage ▾
- 3+ authors ▾
- Year ▾

Reference entry ⓘ

Author's Last Name, Initial(s)., Author's Last Name, Initial(s)., & Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). *Title of work*. Website. <https://URL>

In-text citation ⓘ

Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name et al., Year of publication)

Narrative: Author's Last Name et al. (Year of publication)



Newspaper article ▾	Reference entry ⓘ
3+ authors ▾	Author's Last Name, Initial(s), Author's Last Name, Initial(s), &
Year ▾	Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). Title of article.
URL ▾	Newspaper. https://URL
	In-text citation ⓘ
	Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name et al., Year of publication)
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Dictionary entry ▾	Reference entry ⓘ
2nd edition ▾	Author's Last Name, Initial(s), Author's Last Name, Initial(s), &
3+ authors ▾	Author's Last Name, Initial(s). (Year of publication). Word. In
No editor ▾	Dictionary. Publisher. https://URL
Year ▾	In-text citation ⓘ
URL ▾	Parenthetical: (Author's Last Name et al., Year of publication)
	Narrative: Author's Last Name et al. (Year of publication)

Missing information

It is not uncommon for certain information to be unknown or missing, especially with sources found online. In these cases, the reference is slightly adjusted.

Missing element	What to do	Reference format
Author	Start the reference entry with the source title.	Title. (Date). Source.
Date	Write "n.d." for "no date".	Author. (n.d.). Title. Source.
Title	Describe the work in square brackets.	Author. (Date). [Description]. Source.



Alphabetically sorted

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APA reference page.docx

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Section label

Double spaced

Webpage citation

Journal citation

Book citation



Formatting the APA reference page

On the reference page, you list all the sources that you've cited throughout your paper. Place the page right after the main body and before any appendices.

On the first line of the page, write the section label "References" (in bold and centered). On the second line, start listing your references in alphabetical order.

Apply these formatting guidelines to the APA reference page:

- Double spacing (within and between references)
- Hanging indent of ½ inch
- Legible font (e.g. Times New Roman 12 or Arial 11)
- Page number in the top right header

Which sources to include

On the reference page, you only include sources that you have cited in the text (with an in-text citation). You should not include references to personal communications that your reader can't access (e.g. emails, phone conversations or private online material).