

APA IN-TEXT CITATIONS

The [American Psychological Association](#) (APA) style manual is used in education, business, psychology, science, medical degrees, and more. APA citations generally include the author's name, publication date, and the location information, which is most commonly a page number.

The APA style manual has a blog where you can search for answers to your style questions or make an inquiry.

PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

APA uses two styles of citations: parenthetical and narrative. Both styles have the same three pieces of information but arrange them differently. In a parenthetical citation, you will place the author's name, the publication date, and the location information in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Here is a breakdown of the individual elements:

1. **One author** – If John Doe wrote your source, use his last name. APA requires students to only use last names to avoid gender bias.
Example: (Doe, 2019, p. 5).
2. **Two authors** – If the authors are John Doe and Jane Smith, separate their last names with “&.”
Example: (Doe & Smith, 2010, p. 3).
3. **Multiple authors** – If three or more authors wrote your source, use the first author's last name followed by “et al.”
Example: (Doe et al., 2015, p. 50).
4. **Editor instead of author** – If the person primarily responsible for the whole work is the editor and you are citing the whole work, place the editor in the author's space instead. You will label them as the editor in the reference list.
Example: (Johnson, 2023, p. 57).
5. **Corporate author** – If a corporation like the Federal Bureau of Investigation wrote your source, use the full name followed by the common abbreviation in brackets. Subsequent citations use the abbreviation. If your source is already named and its abbreviation is defined in-text, use its abbreviation in the citation without brackets.
Example: (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], 2020, p. 77) and (FBI, 2020, p. 77).
6. **No author** – If your source has no author, use a shortened version of the title (in title case) in the author slot. Only list “Anonymous” as the author if your source lists the author as “Anonymous.”

Examples: (*Red letters*, 2020, p. 77), (“Alligator soup,” 2020), and (Anonymous, 2015).

PUBLICATION DATE

1. **Regular** – Place the year of publication after the author, separated by a comma.
Example: (Doe, 2015, p. 5).
2. **Translated, republished, reprinted, or reissued dates** – In these cases, include the original date and the newer date with a slash in between.
Example: (Doe, 1860/2010, pp. 5-10).
3. **Same author and date** – If John Doe wrote two sources in 2015, assign “a” to one source and “b” to the other. Follow the respective year with “a” or “b.” Make sure to keep this consistent between citations and reference entries.
Examples: (Doe, 2015a, p. 120) and (Doe, 2015b, p. 16).
4. **No date** – If your source does not list a publication date, use “n.d.” in the date slot.
Example: (Doe, n.d., p. 16).

LOCATION INFORMATION

APA only requires that you include page numbers in your citations for direct quotes and encourages page numbers for paraphrases. However, Academic Coaching suggests always including the page number for both to ensure that you give full credit to a source.

1. **Single page** – Place the page number following the year using “p.” before the number.
Example: (Doe, 2016, p. 5).
2. **Consecutive pages** – If citing multiple pages in sequence, include the range of page numbers preceded by “pp.”
Example: (Doe, 2016, pp. 5-10).
3. **Nonconsecutive pages** – If citing multiple pages that are not in sequence, use the “pp.” abbreviation followed by the pages separated by commas.
Example: (Doe, 2016, pp. 7, 82).
4. **Time stamps** – To cite a video, list the timestamp of the content’s start.
Example: (Doe, 2016, 00:02:22).
5. **Quoted material without page numbers** – Since quoted material needs location information even if there are no page numbers or timestamps, you must do one of the following:

A. Use a heading or section name.

Example: (Doe, 2016, Fried Food section).

B. Give an abbreviated heading or section name.

Example: (Doe, 2016, "Saving Pantry" section).

Note: The quotation marks indicate that the name is shortened. For this example, the full name is Saving Pantry Space with Resealable Containers.

C. Offer paragraph numbers.

Examples: (Doe, 2016, para. 10) and (Doe, 2016, paras. 2-3).

Note: If no paragraph numbers are given, count them manually.

D. Use a combination.

Example: (Doe, 2016, Cucumbers section, para. 2).

CITING MULTIPLE SOURCES

If you cite multiple sources in the same sentence, list them alphabetically separated by semicolons.

Example: (Doe, 2015a, p. 5; Smith, 2019, pp. 60-70).

NARRATIVE CITATIONS

In a narrative citation, you will place the author's name in the sentence itself with the publication date after it in parentheses. The location information will still go in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Here is a breakdown of the individual elements:

1. **Single author** – You can place the author's name at the beginning or end of the sentence. Place the page number separately at the end of the sentence unless the narrative citation follows the quote.

Example: Doe (2015a) argued that "french fries are better than potato wedges" (p. 5).

Example: "Potatoes are great, and sweet potatoes are lacking," stated Doe (2015a, p. 5).

2. **Two authors** – If you mention a source with two authors in-text, use "and" instead of "&."

Example: Doe and Jones (2017) showed the correlation between red and yellow specimens (p. 1).

3. **Consecutive narrative citations** – If you mention your source in-text multiple times in the same paragraph, omit the year following the first full citation.

Example: Jones (2015) stated that frogs taste good. However, Jones said chicken is gross.

Note: You will need to include the year again if you use a narrative citation for this source in a different paragraph.

BIBLE CITATIONS

1. **Parenthetical citation** – If the Bible version is not mentioned in-text, put a parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence containing the Bible version, publication date, and the reference. If the work was published earlier than the version you are using, include both years.

Example: (*New Living Translation Bible*, 2013, Psalm 62:2) and (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, John 2:3).

2. **Narrative citation** – If you mentioned the Bible version in-text, follow the version with the publication date in parentheses.

Example: The *New Living Translation Bible* (2013) says that God is good (Genesis 1:1).

Note: Referring to a Bible version as “the...of the Bible” is different from saying “the...Bible.” “The...of the Bible” refers to a Bible version generally, while “the...Bible” refers to a specific Bible. The former is not italicized, and the latter is.

3. **Annotated Bibles** – If the Bible is annotated (like a study Bible), list the editor(s) as the author.

Example: (Doe & Smith, 2010, Psalm 6:3).

PRACTICE NOW