
What is an in text citation, and how is it different from the citation I made for my references list?
In text citations allow you to briefly acknowledge the source of the idea or quotation used in your writing, and refer your reader to the complete citation for that source in your references list.

When should I include an in text citation in my writing?
The APA states in their Publication Manual (2011): “Whether paraphrasing, quoting an author directly, or describing an idea that influenced your work, you must credit the source” (p. 16).

What is included in the in text citation?
1. The author or authors of the source, as they appear in your Reference page citation. The author may appear either in the parentheses or in the narrative of your writing, but never in both places. If there is no author given for the source, use the title information instead.
2. The year of publication, pulled from your reference list entry.
3. Sometimes the page number or section title is included when sharing a direct quotation or referring to a specific piece of information pulled from the source. It does not need to be included when making a general statement about the source. The page number comes after the abbreviation p. for a single page or pp. for multiple pages.

Where do the author, year and page number go in my citations?
The author may be incorporated into the narrative of your writing if you choose, or may appear in parentheses just after the borrowed quotation or information. See the many examples in this handout.

In what order do the quotation marks, parentheses and period go?
The ending quotation mark goes right after the last word in the quotation, followed by the parenthetical citation, followed by the period. Each comma has a space after it.

Example:
“...in treatment” (Wall et al., 1982, p. 809).

Example 1: Diagram of a parenthetical in text citation. In text citations can look very different from each other, but always contain 2 things: the author and the date of publication. A 3rd item, page numbers, are included when needed.

Example 2: Diagram of combined signal phrase parenthetical citation. If any of the 3 parts of the in text citation are given as part of the narrative, do not include them in the parenthetical citation. The page number goes after the specific quote or idea.
**Rules with examples**

**One author, four examples**


The study of play in humans has lately been more informed by research in many different fields of biology (Brown, 2009).

Brown (2009) was a pioneer in incorporating zoological research into our understanding of human play (p. 26).

The study of play in humans has lately been informed by the study of play in bears (Brown, 2009, p. 26).

**Two authors: Cite both names every time**

Bede and Xing (2011) found that the most commonly prescribed treatment was often ineffective (para. 10).

**Three, four or five authors: Cite all first time and afterward use “et al.”**

...doesn’t appear until age 14 on average (South, Kisang, & Bradley, 1999, p. 7).

AND thereafter: (South et al., 1999, p. 23)

**Six or more authors: first author followed by “et al.”**

Nguyen et al. (2001) did extensive research...

**Group authorship**

A study conducted by Environmental Protection Agency (2003) found that...

Another study found that water quality was improved by nearly 38% (Environmental Protection Agency, 2003).

**No author given**

1. Use the first few words of the Reference list citation (usually the title)
2. Article titles go in quotation marks
3. Book titles are italicized
4. Words in the title are capitalized, except for very short words (and, a, of, and the like). This is in contrast to Reference list citations where only the first word of a title and proper nouns are capitalized

("A Study of Treatment,” 2009)

(Depression in Adolescence, 2012)

**No page numbers**

Give chapter number or title:
(1999, Chapter 4)

Give paragraph numbers:
(Tory, 2005, para. 4)

If neither page nor paragraph numbers are given use section headings and count the paragraphs beneath the heading:
(1989, Conclusion section, para. 3)

**Personal communication are cited in text only, not on References list**

1. Give the initials and last name of the person being quoted or referenced, as well as an exact date if known

T. K. Lutes (personal communication, April 18, 2001)

(V. G. Nguyen, personal communication, September 28, 1998)

**References to classical works**

1. Only for those works with standardized sections across different editions.
2. No References list citation is necessary

(Qur’an 5:3-4)

1 Cor. 13:1 (Revised Standard Version)

**Citing tables or figures included in your paper:**

See pp. 38 & 150-167 of the Publication Manual of the APA

**Citing a secondary source (a quote within a quote):**

See p. 178 of the Publication Manual of the APA

For this handout or more information on using APA Style, see http://guides.kirkwood.edu/citation. Your Kirkwood instructor, Librarians, or Writing Center can help with citations. Created by Kirkwood Community College by Library Services. Updated 7/2013