

## How to Create In-Text Citations with APA Reference Lists

Be sure to document your research throughout the text of your paper by citing the author and date of the works you have used. This style of citation briefly identifies your sources and enables readers to locate detailed information in the alphabetical reference list at the end of your paper. Every in-text citation must have a corresponding entry in the reference list (sometimes called a bibliography) at the end of your paper. It is okay to use the ideas and words of others as part of a research paper, as long as you use give credit where it is due.

APA in text citations use the author-date method of citation. The surname of the author and the year of publication are inserted in the text at the appropriate point in your narrative.

Some citations can be troublesome. For example, how do you cite a work by multiple authors? APA has a rule for citing a work with two authors, a different rule for citing a work by three, four, or five authors, and yet a third rule for citing six or more authors. Then there are works with government agencies listed as author and works with no clear author at all. What do you do? You consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. It is shelved in the Reference collection, **REF 808.02**. For all the rules of reference citations, see section 3.94 on page 207. Following are some samples of the most straightforward and typical citations.

### Reference citation in text for one work by one author

If the name of the author appears as part of your narrative, cite only the year of publication in parentheses:

Steed (1967) found that a sturdy umbrella was of paramount importance.

Otherwise, place both the name and the year, separated by a comma, in parentheses:

In a recent study of umbrellas (Steed, 1967) many were found to be of inferior quality.

If both the year and author are given in the narrative, do not add parenthetical information:

In 1967 Steed compared umbrellas.

The corresponding citation in the reference list at the end of the paper would look like this:

Steed, J. (1967). *Nothing like a good umbrella: Facts, myths, and the future of England*. London: Peel Press.

The reference list must be double-spaced, and should have a hanging indent (see section 4.03 of the APA Manual). Capitalize only the first word of the title and of the subtitle, if any, and any proper nouns; italicize the title. (see 4.12 of the APA Manual).

## **Reference citation in text for one work by two authors**

Always cite both names every time the reference occurs in text:

Peel and Steed (1968) isolated the chemical compound that could affect memory.

In this case the corresponding citation in the reference list refers to a journal article, two authors, journal paginated by issue (see section 4.16 of the APA Manual, examples 1-6):

Peel, M. E., & Steed, J. (1968). Forgetting the chemical that causes memory loss. *Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research*, 45(2), 10-36.

## **Reference citation in-text for journals, including articles from online databases**

Give the journal or magazine title in full, in uppercase and lowercase letters. Give the volume number. If each issue of a journal begins on page 1, give the issue number in parentheses immediately after the volume number—just like you see above. 45 is the volume and (2) is the issue. Otherwise, you can leave this element out of the citation. If a journal does not use volume numbers or if you are unsure about using issue numbers, include the month, season, or other designation with the year. Put this information in the parentheses right after the author name. In the above example you would include (1968, April 9) after the authors' names, if a volume number is not available. Italicize the journal name and the volume and issue numbers, if any. Use commas after the title and volume number. Finish the whole thing off with a period.

When referencing material from an aggregated database, such as EBSCOHost Masterfile Premier, follow the format for a print source and add a retrieval statement that gives the date of retrieval and the proper name of the database.

Here's the in text citation:

Laser beams from Venusians can be fairly typical (Peel, 1967).

Here's the corresponding citation in the reference list:

Peel, M. E. (1967). Role of telescopes in extraterrestrial invasions. *Journal of Applied Astronomy*, 78, 443-449. Retrieved October 9, 2002, from EBSCOHost Masterfile Premier database.

## **Quoting Directly From Another Source**

There are different rules when you *directly quote* from another source. Always give page numbers for quotations (see section 3.34 on page 117). Incorporate a short quotation (fewer than 40 words) into your text, and enclose the quotation with double quotation marks:

Peel (1965) determined that “ultrasonic sound could cause a complete breakdown of an individual’s mind, leaving it vulnerable to . . . enemy agents” (p. 447).

Display a quotation of 40 or more words in a freestanding block and omit the quotation marks. The entire quotation should be double spaced. Start this block quotation on a new line, and indent the block about five spaces:

Peel (1965) found the following:

The use of ultrasonic sound could cause a complete breakdown of an individual’s mind, leaving it vulnerable to manipulation by enemy agents. A dentist’s drill attached to appropriate broadcasting equipment, for example, could overpower anyone within an area the size of a large airfield. (p. 276)

When quoting, always provide the author, year and specific page citation in the text, and, of course, include a complete reference in the reference list:

Peel, M. E. (1965). Responses to anomalous sound sequences. *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 122, 443-449.  
Retrieved September 9, 2002, from EBSCOHost Academic Search Elite database.

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