APA Parenthetical Citation Examples

(Citing an author in the text of your paper)

APA style uses parenthetical in-text citations to tell readers where you obtained your information or ideas.

You must credit any information you get from another source, including paraphrased text, direct quotations, and original ideas.

In-text citations usually contain the author’s last name and the date of publication, and are usually placed at the end of the sentence or paragraph that refers to the source.

Example: A journal article written by John Smith, published in 2005, would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

Many students have difficulty learning APA style at first (Smith, 2005).

or

Smith (2005) stated that many students have difficulty learning APA style.

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If there is no author, use the first few words in the title of the source in quotes. If there is no publication date, use the initials n.d.

Example: A Web page called “Student Guide to Using APA,” with no publication date would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

It is important to use APA correctly so that others can verify your research (“Student Guide,” n.d.).

Note: Do not include the URL of a website you cite in the body of your paper. The URL will be included in your reference page at the end of the paper.

If you are quoting directly from a source, you must include the page number the quote is found on.

Example: A quote by John Smith, published in a book in 2002 would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

Smith (2002) stated, “Quite a few students encounter difficulties whenever they attempt to learn APA for the first time” (p. 122).

If you are quoting from a quote within a source (secondary work), you reference the source you are using, not the source of the quote.

Example: A study by Seidenberg and McClelland cited in an article by Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller in 1993 would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

“Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993, p. 53) fills a major gap in previous research.”

or

Coltheart (1993, p. 53) cited the study by Seidenberg and McClelland, “fills a major gap in precious research.”

Note: Whenever possible, use the primary source. Avoid using secondary sources in your paper.
APA Reference Citation Examples

**Book**

**Chapter in an edited book**

**Online publication: DOI**

**Online publication: No DOI**

**Newspaper**

**Journal article**

**Legal case**

**Thesis retrieved from database**

**Online publication: No DOI**

**Online article based on a print source**

**Online stand-alone document, no author, no date only include retrieved dates if source material may change over time**
Note: Reference entries are double-spaced with a hanging indent. One space follows all punctuation. Give the author’s last name and first initials. Place parentheses around the publication date. Capitalize the first word of the title, subtitle, and proper nouns (if any). Italicize the title of the work and volume number (if any).

**Notes**